

On Top Of The News Email:[news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel:+297 582-7800 Wednesday, June 26, 2013



## Putin rules out extradition for Snowden in airport

Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and Finland's President Sauli Niinisto speak to the media following a meeting at the presidential summer residence Kultaranta in Naantali, Finland, Tuesday June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Lehtikuva, Kimmo Mantyla)

**D M. HERZENHORN**

**PETER BAKER**

**RICK GLADSTONE**

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MOSCOW - President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia confirmed directly for the first time on Tuesday that Edward J. Snowden, the fugitive former U.S. national security contractor, was staying temporarily in an international transit area at a Moscow airport, and Putin appeared to rule out U.S. requests for his extradition to the United States.

Speaking at a news conference while on an official visit to Finland, Putin of-

fered no new information on where Snowden might be headed from the transit area of Sheremetyevo Airport in Moscow, where he has been ensconced, out of public view, for the past two days. But he said Snowden had broken no Russian laws.

"Mr. Snowden is a free man," Putin said, "and the sooner he chooses his final destination, the better it will be both for us and for him." Putin also said that Snowden's arrival "was a complete surprise for us" and that as a transit passenger, "he doesn't need a

visa or other documents. As a transit passenger, he has a right to buy a ticket and fly wherever he wants."

He sought to refute suggestions that Russian security officials might be talking to Snowden, who is believed to be carrying a trove of U.S. intelligence data on laptop computers and thumb drives. Putin said they "have never worked with Mr. Snowden and are not working with him now." The remarks by Putin were the most definitive and extensive from the Russian government on Snowden, whose successful effort, so

far, to elude his U.S. pursuers has captivated global attention, showed the limits of U.S. power and strained U.S. relations with both Russia and China. Snowden flew to Moscow on Sunday from Hong Kong despite a U.S. request that the authorities there arrest him.

Putin said U.S. accusations that Russia was abetting a fugitive "are just a nightmare and nonsense," and he appeared to end any possibility that Russia would extradite Snowden.

"We can extradite foreign nationals only to those countries with which we

have relevant international agreements on the extradition of criminals," Putin said. "We have no such agreement with the United States."

While in Russian territory, Putin said, "Mr. Snowden, thank God, has not committed any crimes."

Putin spoke hours after the Russian foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, chastised the United States for its demands regarding Snowden, who has been charged with violating U.S. espionage laws.

**Continued on Page 3**

## Obama outlines plan to cut greenhouse gases

MARK LANDLER

JOHN M. BRODER

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**WASHINGTON** - President Barack Obama, declaring that "Americans across the country are already paying the price of inaction" on climate change, on Tuesday announced sweeping measures to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and prepare the nation for a future of damaging weather aggravated by rising temperatures.

Embracing an issue that could define his legacy but

mate.

Saying science had put to rest the debate over whether human activity was warming the Earth, Obama said, "The question now is whether we will have the courage to act before it is too late."

"As a president, as a father and as an American, I am here to say, we need to act," he said to students and others gathered in a sunbaked quadrangle at Georgetown University. "I refuse to condemn your generation and future gen-

eration of a 1,200-mile pipeline from oil sands formations in Alberta to refineries in the Midwest and the Gulf Coast. Obama, who has been under heavy political pressure from opponents and supporters of the \$7 billion project, said the pipeline should be built only if it did not have a major effect on the climate. "And our national interest will be served only if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution," Obama said in a

proposal, saying they constituted a government overreach that would constrict energy production and strangle the nation's economic recovery.

"These policies, rejected even by the last Democratic-controlled Congress, will shutter power plants, destroy good-paying American jobs and raise electricity bills for families that can scarcely afford it," Speaker John A. Boehner said in a statement released before Obama spoke.

It also fulfilled, belatedly, a



President Barack Obama wipes away sweat as he speaks about climate change at Georgetown University in Washington, June 25, 2013. Obama proposed a sweeping plan to address climate change on Tuesday, setting ambitious goals and timetables for a series of executive actions to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and prepare the nation for the ravages of a warming planet.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

also ignite new battles with Republicans, Obama said he would use his executive powers to require reductions in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the nation's power plants.

That was the centerpiece of a three-part plan that includes new federal spending to advance renewable energy technology, as well as spending to protect cities and states from the ravages of storms and droughts that are exacerbated by a changing cli-

erations to a planet that is beyond saving."

For Obama, it was a bold attempt to stake out an achievement that could define his legacy as president. But unlike with the health care overhaul, he is being forced to rely on executive authorities, since passing legislation to address climate policy would be a near impossibility in a deeply divided Congress. He briefly addressed the pending decision on whether to allow the con-

statement that cheered pipeline opponents. "The net effects of the pipeline's impact on our climate will be absolutely critical to determining whether this project is allowed to go forward." He did not lay out the criteria for measuring the project's effect on the climate or say how big an impact he was willing to accept. Those decisions are still months away, White House officials said.

Republicans were quick to condemn the president's

promise Obama made as a presidential candidate in 2008 to tackle the threat of a warming climate. During his first term, climate change took a back seat to more pressing problems, including the financial crisis and the collapse of the auto industry, and then to his decision to make the health care overhaul his first big legislative initiative. White House aides said the timing for Obama's speech had been set weeks ago. □

## Canada confident Keystone XL plan will be approved

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** — Canada's natural resources minister said Tuesday he's confident the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline project from Canada to Texas will be approved because it meets President Barack Obama's requirement that it not lead to a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

Joe Oliver responded to Obama's comments earlier Tuesday that the pipeline should be approved only if it does "not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution."

Oliver pointed to "Obama's very own State Department" which he said concluded in a report this year "that there would be no increase in greenhouse gas emissions."

The long-delayed project carrying oil from Alberta's oil sands requires approval from the State Department because the project crosses the border. Republicans, and business and labor groups, have urged the Obama administration to approve the pipeline as a source of jobs and a step toward North American energy independence.

But environmental groups have been pressuring Obama to reject the pipeline, saying it would carry "dirty oil" that contributes to global warming. They also worry about a spill.

Canada has said the project would be a welcome economic boost, and Alberta's premier has warned that its rejection would mar relations with the U.S. The northern Alberta region has the world's third largest oil reserves, with 170 billion barrels of proven reserves. A State Department report on the pipeline this year acknowledged that development of the oil sands in Alberta would create greenhouse gases, but it also made clear that other methods to transport the oil — including rail, trucks and barges — also pose a risk to the environment. □

# Kerry talks to Saudis about Syria, Mideast peace

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON/JIDDAH,** Saudi Arabia (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Saudi Arabia stood firmly Tuesday against Syrian President Bashar Assad, condemning him for bolstering his forces with foreign fighters and insisting that a stalled international conference be convened

to craft a political solution to end the bloody civil war. "We believe that the best solution is a political solution," Kerry said. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, a key ally of the United States and foe of Iran, says Assad's addition of Hezbollah and Iranian fighters to the battlefield is a critical turn of events that cannot

be ignored. He says Syria is now an occupied land — a development that requires speedy action by the international community. "Syria is facing two things — unprecedented genocide and a foreign invasion," al-Faisal said. Kerry, on a trip through the Mideast and Asia, says the U.S. remains convinced that an international con-

ference offers the best chance to bring about a political solution.

"We do not want this to be a wider war," Kerry said. "We will continue to provide assistance to the Syrian military coalition and to the Syrian opposition in the interim. Because we do not believe it is appropriate for the Assad regime to have invited the Iranians and Hezbollah to cross international lines and to have their fighters on the ground. There are no United States fighters. There are no Saudi fighters. There are no Qatari fighters on the ground." Nevertheless, regional powers like Saudi Arabia, and soon the United States, are sending lethal aid to the rebels. The United States also has 1,000 troops in Jordan providing training.

On Egypt, Kerry said the U.S. has made many recommendations to help the country create a way for the opposition to be part of the political process in order to create some eco-

nomic reforms that would help attract business and capital.

"This demonstration is spontaneous. It comes from the Egyptian people. We hope it will bring the government ultimately to the place where the reforms are affected and choices that need to be made about the economy are implemented," he said. "We would obviously hope that it will not produce violence — that is would be a moment catalyzing positive change for Egypt itself."

The political situation in Egypt is deteriorating. Kerry's remarks come after Egyptian Defense Minister Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi gave the nation's Islamist rulers and their opponents a week to reach an understanding before planned June 30 opposition protests demanding resignation of President Mohammed Morsi. El-Sissi issued a toughly worded warning that the military will intervene to stop the nation from entering a "dark tunnel." □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says goodbye to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal outside of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where they held a news conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, June 25, 2013. Kerry is in Jeddah for a day visit before continuing on to Kuwait, returning to his Middle East tour after a stop in India.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

# Putin rules out extradition for Snowden in airport

Continued from front

He and his allies describe him as a whistle-blower whose revelations have exposed what they called the U.S. government's invasion of privacy around the world.

Lavrov said Snowden had not crossed the Russian border, which appeared at first to be a denial that he was in Russia.

But it also was a technical way of saying Snowden was in the international passenger transit area, a restricted zone where foreign travelers do not get their passports stamped and do not pass through immigration checkpoints as they await flight connections to other countries. U.S. officials, including Secretary of State John Kerry, lashed out with unusual force Monday against China for allowing Snowden to leave Hong Kong, against Russia for permitting him safe transit and against

Ecuador for declaring that it is actively considering Snowden's request for political asylum. The Americans have demanded that he be seized and repatriated.

"He didn't cross the Russian border, and we consider the attempts we are seeing to accuse the Russian side of violating United States law as completely ungrounded and unacceptable, or nearly a conspiracy accompanied by threats against us," Lavrov said, speaking to reporters here after a meeting with the Algerian foreign minister.

He added, "There are no legal grounds for this kind of behavior from American officials toward us."

Later in the day Kerry, speaking to reporters while visiting Saudi Arabia, sought to tone down the angry exchange of words with his Russian counterpart, with whom he has sought to cultivate a good relationship.

"We are not looking for a confrontation," Kerry said. The comments by Putin and Lavrov were the first by top Russian officials about Snowden since Snowden's reported arrival at Sherem-

the aircraft left without him. Ecuador confirmed that it had received an asylum request and had provided documents allowing Snowden to travel there. Snowden's U.S. passport



Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives at Turku airport in Finland, Tuesday June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Lehtikuva, Antti Aimo-Koivisto)

etyevo Airport in Moscow on Sunday.

Employees of Aeroflot, the Russian airline, said Snowden had been booked on an afternoon flight Monday to Havana, but he did not board and

their records on Internet freedom.

Lavrov said on Tuesday, "We have no connection with Mr. Snowden, nor with his relation toward the American justice system, nor with his movement around the world. He chose his own route and we, like most of those here, found out about this from the press."

The anti-secrecy organization, WikiLeaks, which says it has helped Snowden evade the U.S. authorities, has said that he is safe and healthy but has declined to pinpoint his whereabouts. The White House has said it believes that Snowden is still in Moscow.

U.S. intelligence officials remained deeply concerned that Snowden could make public more documents disclosing details of the National Security Agency's collection system or that his documents could be obtained by foreign intelligence services, with or without his cooperation. □

## Supreme Court weakens voting discrimination law

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A deeply divided U.S. Supreme Court threw out the most powerful part of the landmark law that forced open voting booths for minorities decades ago in the face of sometimes violent opposition in mostly Southern states, noting that the times have changed. President Barack Obama, the country's first black chief executive, said he was "deeply disappointed" with the decision.

Split along ideological and partisan lines, the justices voted 5-4 Tuesday to halt enforcement of the requirement in the Voting Rights Act that all or parts of 15 states with a history of discrimination in voting get Washington's approval before changing the way

they hold elections. The Voting Rights Act was an emergency federal measure in 1965 — a turbulent time when it was not unusual for blacks to essentially be barred from voting in some parts of the country, and some civil rights activists on the issue were killed. The act was just one instance of the federal government stepping in during that era to make local governments obey the law and ensure equal rights for all.

Tuesday's ruling, led by Chief Justice John Roberts writing for a conservative majority, was the most dramatic decision so far as the high court re-examines the necessity of laws and programs aimed at giving racial minorities access



**Stephanie Rigizadeh, of CBS, runs to convey the Supreme Court's ruling on the Voting Rights Act outside the Supreme Court in Washington, June 25, 2013. The Supreme Court struck down a central portion of the Voting Rights Act on Tuesday, holding that Section 4 of the law, originally passed in 1965 and since updated by Congress, was unconstitutional.**

**(Drew Angerer/The New York Times)**

to areas from which they once were systematically excluded.

The U.S. racial landscape is rapidly changing. Census estimates look ahead to whites becoming a minority in coming decades. Rights groups and the court's dissenting liberal justices warned that discrimination still exists.

"The Supreme Court has effectively gutted one of the nation's most important and effective civil rights laws. Minority voters in places with a record of discrimination are now at greater risk of being disenfranchised than they have been in decades," said Jon Greenbaum, chief counsel for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Obama, reelected last year with the strong support of black and Hispanic voters, called on Congress to reinvigorate the voting rights law.

"While today's decision is a setback, it doesn't represent the end of our efforts to end voting discrimination," the president said. "I am calling on Congress to pass legislation to ensure every American has equal access to the polls."

The requirement for federal approval for proposed election changes was put into the law to give fed-

eral officials a potent tool to defeat persistent efforts to keep blacks from voting. But coverage also has been triggered by past discrimination against American Indians, Asian-Americans, Alaska Natives and Hispanics.

The requirement currently applies to the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. It also covers certain counties in California, Florida, New York, North Carolina and South Dakota, and some local jurisdictions in Michigan.

Tuesday's ruling came in a challenge brought by Shelby County, Alabama, a suburb of Birmingham — one of the Southern cities where the civil rights struggle played out in the 1960s. The lawsuit acknowledged that the measure had been appropriate and necessary to counteract decades of state-sponsored discrimination in voting, but it asked whether there was any end in sight for a provision that intrudes on states' rights to conduct elections.

Officials from the South had mixed reactions Tuesday.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, the only black lawmaker in Mississippi's congressional delegation. □

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## GOP in House leaves immigration bill in doubt



House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), center, walks to his office on Capitol Hill in Washington, June 25, 2013. With the Senate days away from passing the most significant immigration legisla-

tion in a generation, House Republicans say they feel no pressure to act quickly on a similar measure, leaving the fate of the bill very much in doubt despite solid bipartisan Senate support. (Drew Angerer/The New York Times)

JONATHAN WEISMAN

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON - With the Senate days away from passing the most significant immigration legislation in a generation, House Republicans say they feel no pressure to act quickly on a similar measure, leaving the fate of the bill very much in doubt despite solid bipartisan Senate support.

"We have a minority of the minority in the Senate voting for this bill," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okl., referring to the 15 or so Republicans expected to back the Senate measure. "That's not going to put a lot of pressure on the majority of the majority in the House."

Two senior House Republi-

can leadership aides were more blunt when speaking privately: Speaker John A. Boehner has no intention of angering conservative voters and jeopardizing the House Republican majority in 2014 in the interest of courting Hispanic voters on behalf of a 2016 Republican presidential nominee who does not yet exist.

If anything, the politics of a gerrymandered House where Republican lawmakers have much more to fear politically from the right than from the left could push many Republicans to oppose a conservative alternative to the Senate's plan.

Even advocates of a comprehensive immigration bill

that includes a pathway to legalization for undocumented immigrants now in the country say that Senate passage as early as Friday would not change House sentiment quickly.

"The House is not going to get logrolled by the Senate," said Rep. Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, who lost his bid to be vice president last year in part because of the Republican Party's abysmal showing with immigrant voters. "We'll have a more methodical, patient way of doing this."

"Can we pass a House bill? It's a very open question," said Rep. Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania, a leading voice among a shrinking group of moderate Republicans. □

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## Judge in Martin case weighs police calls

**KYLE HIGHTOWER**

**MIKE SCHNEIDER**

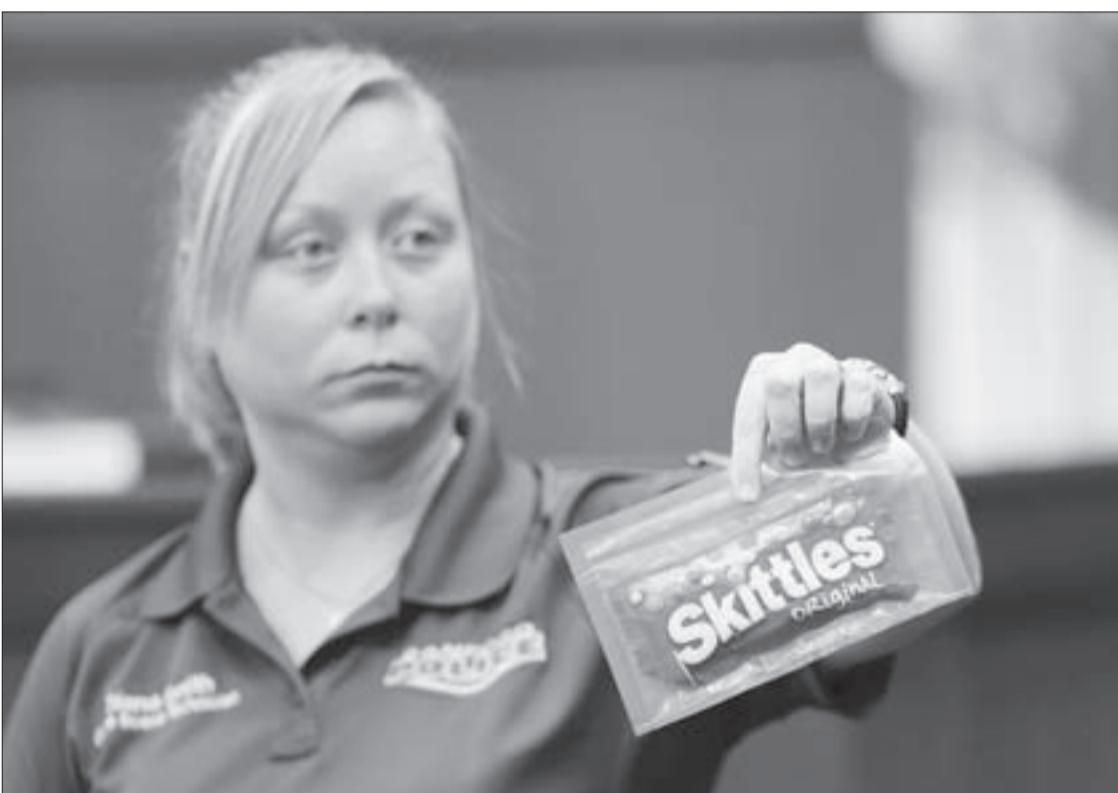
**Associated Press**

**SANFORD, Fla. (AP)** — Several times in six months, neighborhood watch captain George Zimmerman called police to report suspicious characters in the gated townhouse community where he lived. Each

"It shows the context in which the defendant sought out his encounter with Trayvon Martin," Mantei said.

Defense attorney Mark O'Mara argued that the calls were irrelevant and that nothing matters but the seven or eight minutes before Zimmerman fired

to revive Martin as bubbling sounds came from his chest, and a police manager described how she helped Zimmerman set up the neighborhood watch. In the calls, Zimmerman identifies himself as a neighborhood watch volunteer and recounts that his neighborhood has had



Diana Smith, crime scene technician for the Sanford Police Department, shows a bag of Skittles, which was collected as evidence, to the jury during Zimmerman's trial in Seminole circuit court in Sanford, Fla. Tuesday, June 25, 2013. Zimmerman has been charged with second-degree murder for the 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

(AP Photo/Orlando Sentinel, Gary W. Green)

time, when asked, he reported that the suspects were black males.

On Tuesday, the judge at Zimmerman's murder trial in the killing of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin listened to those five calls and weighed whether to let the jury hear them, too.

Prosecutors want to use them to bolster their argument that Zimmerman was increasingly frustrated with repeated burglaries and had reached a breaking point the night he shot the unarmed teenager.

The recordings show Zimmerman's "ill will," prosecutor Richard Mantei told Judge Debra Nelson.

the deadly shot into Martin's chest.

The prosecution is "going to ask the jury to make a leap from a good, responsible, citizen behavior to seething behavior," O'Mara said.

The judge did not immediately rule on whether to admit the recordings.

Prosecutors played the calls with the jurors out of the courtroom at the beginning of a day in which a former Zimmerman neighbor testified about what she saw of the confrontation. Also, prosecutors presented graphic photos of Martin's body, a police officer described trying

a rash of recent break-ins. In one call, he asks that officers respond quickly since the suspects "typically get away quickly."

In another, he describes suspicious black men hanging around a garage and mentions his neighborhood had a recent garage break-in. Zimmerman, 29, could get life in prison if convicted of second-degree murder for gunning down Martin as the young man walked from a convenience store. Zimmerman followed him in his truck and called a police dispatch number before he and the teen got into a fight. □

## US man pleads guilty in \$13M Facebook fraud

**LARRY NEUMEISTER**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A Florida investment adviser and onetime Oregon candidate for governor cried as he pleaded guilty Tuesday in a \$13 million securities fraud scheme that prosecutors say capitalized on enthusiasm for shares of Facebook and other Internet companies about to go public.

Craig L. Berkman, 71, entered the plea to securities fraud and wire fraud in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, agreeing to serve between eight and 10 years in prison, according to the terms of a written agreement between Berkman and prosecutors. Otherwise, he would have faced up to 40 years in prison.

Berkman, a Republican candidate for Oregon governor in 1994 when he was a millionaire who had accumulated wealth by creating and selling high-tech companies, admitted that he falsely claimed to investors in December 2010 that he owned shares of Menlo Park, California-based Facebook Inc., Chicago-based Groupon Inc. and Mountain View, California-based LinkedIn Inc., among other companies.

"I deeply regret my actions," a sobbing Berkman told a federal magistrate judge. "I have devastated my family. I apologize to them and to all the investors, and I am very, very sorry."

Berkman, who served as Oregon's state Republican Party chairman from 1989 to 1993, said he told investors their money would be used to buy shares of companies such as Facebook before their initial public offerings even though he

knew he was knowingly over-representing the number of Facebook shares he owned.

"I also engaged in fraud and deceit," he said. "I used the money invested with my companies for purposes other than purchasing pre-IPO shares of companies, as I had promised investors."

Prosecutors say he pocketed much of the \$13.2 million he received from more than 120 investors during the scheme, which stretched from 2010 until his March 2013 arrest. The government says he transferred the investors' money into his personal account rather than using it to acquire shares of Facebook. Berkman admitted in a statement he read aloud that he used "close to \$6 million to pay creditors in a bankruptcy proceeding" even though he had falsely promised that the source of the funds paid was not investor funds that he controlled.

"I knew that I was not authorized to use investor funds for these purposes and I did not disclose to the investors that I used their funds for these purposes," Berkman said.

Prosecutors said he used another \$4.8 million to pay off earlier investors and spent another \$1.6 million on legal fees, travel and other personal expenses, including cash withdrawals.

At one point, Berkman promised that he would not challenge the way the government organized charges in his plea.

"Yes, your honor," he said. "And I want to thank the prosecution for their willingness to work with me in this matter." □

## Reports reflect Fed's message of stronger economy

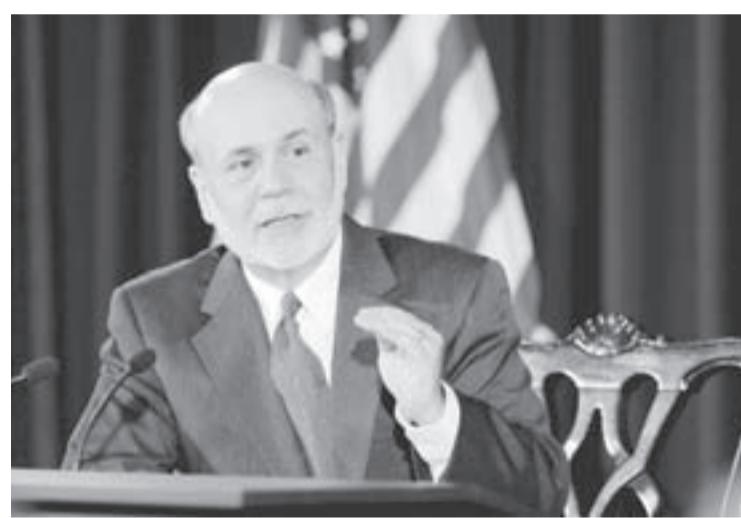
C. S. RUGABER

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AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. housing recovery is strengthening. Factories

losses since Chairman Ben Bernanke said last week that the Fed will likely scale back its economic stimulus within months — a move that would send long-term



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks during a news conference in Washington. The brightening US economic picture captured in four reports Tuesday, June 25, 2013, suggests that the economy could accelerate in the second half of the year, underscoring the message last week from the Federal Reserve.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

are fielding more orders. And Americans' confidence in the economy has reached its highest point in 5½ years.

That brightening picture, captured in four reports Tuesday, suggests that the economy could accelerate in the second half of the year. It underscores the message last week from the Federal Reserve, which plans to slow its bond-buying program this year and end it next year if the economy continues to strengthen. The Fed's bond purchases have helped keep long-term interest rates low.

Investors appeared to welcome the flurry of positive data. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 100 points to close at 14,760, and broader stock indexes also ended the day up. Those gains made up only a fraction of the markets'

rates up.

But the rising confidence of U.S. consumers shows that most Americans are focused on a better job market, said Beth Ann Bovino, chief economist at Standard & Poor's.

"Maybe households agree with the Fed: the economy is improving," Bovino said. The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index jumped this month to 81.4, the highest reading since January 2008. The New York-based research group said consumers appear more encouraged by economic conditions and more optimistic about where the economy and job market are likely headed over the next six months.

Last month, U.S. employers added 175,000 jobs, which almost exactly matched the average increase of the previous 12 months.

Steady job growth has gradually reduced the unemployment rate to 7.6 percent from a peak of 10 percent in 2009. And rising home and stock prices since the recession ended four years ago have made many Americans feel wealthier.

The combination has kept consumers spending this year despite higher Social Security taxes and steep government spending cuts that took effect this year. The survey was completed June 13, so it didn't reflect the past week's plunge in stock prices. The market turmoil might lower July's consumer confidence. Still, many economists say they doubt that any drop in confidence would be dramatic.

For most Americans, the biggest investment is their home. And a steady rise in prices is allowing them recover much of the wealth they lost during and immediately after the Great Recession.

U.S. home prices jumped 12.1 percent in April compared with a year ago, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index. That was the biggest year-over-year gain since March 2006. For a fourth straight month, prices rose from a year earlier in all 20 cities in the index. Twelve cities posted double-digit price gains. More buyers and a limited supply of available homes have lifted prices in most cities. Higher prices have, in turn, fueled further sales

and encouraged builders to ramp up construction. A more sustainable housing recovery is contributing to economic growth and creating more jobs.

Sales of new homes rose in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 476,000, the Commerce Department said. That was the fastest pace since July 2008. Though sales of new homes remain below the 700,000 annual rate that most economists consider healthy, the pace has jumped 29 percent from a year ago.

The weakest part of the economy this year has been manufacturing, which has been held back by a recession in Europe and tepid growth in other overseas markets. □

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## Brazen Taliban attack at the Afghan presidential palace

DAVID RISING

RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— A Taliban attack at the gates of the Afghan presidential palace cast a cold light Tuesday on the course of a war that Washington remains committed to ending.

A week after NATO forces handed all security operations to the Afghans, local forces fought off the attackers on their own, killing all eight militants without calling in any coalition help. But the assault also made clear that the Taliban's fighting spirit remains unbroken and demonstrated their ability to bluff their way past two checkpoints and storm a highly fortified zone of the capital.

The firefight took place in Ariana square, about 500 meters (yards) and several more checkpoints away from the presidential palace, where President Hamid Karzai was apparently



Afghan security forces investigate near the entrance gate of the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan Tuesday, June 25, 2013. Suicide attackers blew up a car bomb and battled security forces outside the presidential palace Tuesday after infiltrating one of the most secure areas of the capital.

(AP photo/Rahmat Gul)

preparing for a speech later in the morning.

The attack could complicate American efforts to try to get Karzai's government to sit down with the

Taliban to talk peace. U.S. President Barack Obama later talked with Karzai in a video conference that lasted more than an hour and covered issues includ-

ing the peace process and the newly opened Taliban political office in the Gulf nation of Qatar, Karzai's office said without giving further details.

The White House said Obama and Karzai affirmed that Afghanistan, not the U.S., must lead the reconciliation process. The leaders also said they still support meetings between Afghanistan's High Peace Council and Taliban representatives at a political office the Taliban recently opened in Qatar.

The Taliban have said they would continue fighting even as they pursued peace talks, and the attack served to drive that home, said Moeen Marastial, a political analyst and former member of the Afghan parliament.

"The main point is the Taliban wants to show to the government of Afghanistan and to the world and to the powers who are working for the peace process that they are in power," Marastial said. "They can come close to the palace, they can come close to the places where NATO is, where American forces are — they wanted to show to the world that 'we can do it.'"

The gunbattle started about 6:30 a.m. near the east gate leading to the palace next to the Afghan Ministry of Defense and the former Ariana Hotel, which former U.S. intelligence officials have confirmed is used by the CIA. One carload of Taliban fighters dressed in military-style camouflage uniforms emerged from their black Land Cruiser and started shooting.

Another got stuck between two checkpoints and detonated their explosives-laden vehicle.

The Taliban said all eight of its fighters died in the attack, while the Interior Ministry said three security guards were killed and another wounded. □

## Egypt protesters look to army backing

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Just a

year ago, Egypt's liberals and pro-democracy youth movements were demanding the military, which took over from the ousted Hosni Mubarak, leave power. But after a tumultuous year under a freely elected Islamist president, many of them are hoping for the army's protection as they try to force out Mohammed Morsi with protests this weekend.

Morsi's opponents calculate they can push him to go through the sheer number of people they bring into the streets Sunday — building on widespread discontent with his running

of the country — plus the added weight of the army's backing.

After that, they believe that the Islamists have misruled so badly that a new election would yield a different result.

Morsi's backers, in turn, say the mainly liberal and secular political opposition is fomenting a coup to remove an elected leader because they can't compete at the ballot box.

Central to whatever happens on June 30 — the anniversary of Morsi's inauguration — is the stance of the military.

Last Sunday, Egypt's army chief gave the president and the opposition a week to reach an understanding

to prevent bloodshed and warned it would intervene to stop the nation from entering a "dark tunnel."

Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi also gave a thinly veiled warning to Morsi's backers that the military will step in if the protesters are attacked during the planned protests, as some hard-liners have threatened.

In the days since, there's been no movement toward a resolution. Morsi has given no signs of making any concessions. He invited all sides to a meeting Wednesday, when he plans a national address. The opposition in turn rejects talks, saying they come "extremely late." It is boycotting the meeting,

saying it is not serious, and will only join a dialogue if el-Sissi convenes it — a sign of how it sees him as the only reliable arbiter.

"There is just no time left. It is too late and anything the president tries to do now will in reality be an attempt to discourage people from coming out on Sunday. We have no confidence in the president," said Khaled Dawoud, the spokesman for the National Salvation Front, the main opposition grouping. In his comments, el-Sissi said the two sides must reach a "genuine" reconciliation, seeming to acknowledge the opposition's argument that Morsi's past calls for dialogue were empty gestures. □

## Germany probes Tunisian model plane attack suspects

**BERLIN (AP)** — German authorities are investigating two men of Tunisian origin suspected of planning to use model airplanes for terrorist attacks, prosecutors said Tuesday, as police in Germany and Belgium raided a series of sites searching for evidence of "possible attack plans and preparations."

No one was arrested in Tuesday's raids, which were carried out by about 90 police in the Stuttgart and Munich areas of southern Germany and in Saxony in eastern Germany, federal prosecutors said in a statement. One site in Belgium was raided, German officials said without elaborating.

Prosecutors said the investigation involved possible charges of "preparation of a serious, state-threatening act of violence," but they did not mention membership in any specific terrorist organization.

The two Tunisians are suspected of "procuring information and objects to commit Islamic extremist explosive attacks with remote-controlled model airplanes," prosecutors added. They gave no further information on the two men and didn't identify them.

However, the public broadcaster in southwestern Germany, SWF, quoted unnamed sources as saying that the two were studying aeronautics at the University of Stuttgart and were suspected of trying to develop techniques for remotely piloting model planes using GPS technology.

German authorities would not say whether the alleged plot was far advanced, but the German news agency dpa, quoting unnamed security sources, said the suspects had been under surveillance for more than a year.

The agency said authorities



A police officer carries a seized computer out of a raided house in Fellbach, Germany, Tuesday, June 25, 2013, as German prosecutors said they are investigating two men suspected of planning terrorist attacks using model airplanes. Authorities in Germany and neighboring Belgium conducted a series of searches of nine properties in Germany and Belgium.

(AP Photo/dpa, Franziska Kraufmann)

had recently detected "an increased interest in explosives and model aircraft." However, authorities added that the national terror threat had not been raised, suggesting police believe the alleged plan—if there were one—was in

early stages. Among the locations raided were the apartments of four acquaintances of the two men who were suspected of financing Islamic extremism, officials said. The investigation also targeted another acquain-

tance suspected of money laundering.

None of the suspects was identified.

Last November, a U.S. man, Rezwani Ferdaus, was sentenced to 17 years in prison over a plot to fly remote-controlled model planes packed with explosives into the Pentagon and U.S. Capitol.

Last year, Spanish police released a video they claimed showed suspected al-Qaida members training for a bombing raid using a model plane. Two Russians of Chechen origin were charged with possession of explosives but were released in April for lack of evidence. A Turk living in Spain was also arrested but later released.

Germany has seen only one successful attack by an Islamic radical — the fatal shooting of two U.S. airmen at Frankfurt airport in 2011 by a Kosovo native who grew up in Germany and became radicalized by watching jihadist propaganda on the Internet. □

## Eiffel Tower workers on strike, monument closed

**PARIS (AP)** — France's Eiffel Tower—normally open 365 days a year—shut down Tuesday because of a strike, leaving tourists at the landmark Paris monument stuck on the ground.

The company that manages the tower says the CGT union, which represents most of the Eiffel Tower's 300 workers, called the walkout in the morning. It was not immediately clear if the strike would move into a second day.

Company director Nicolas Lefebvre told The Associated Press that management and the union are in negotiations this week over salary raises, company profit-

sharing policy and other issues.

Tourists were crestfallen when they learned they would have to forgo the classic Paris thrill of a climb up the tower.

"Well, it's my first time here and actually it is our last day," said Olga Castillanos, 26, of Los Angeles. Visiting the Eiffel Tower "is the last thing we wanted to do as tourists and we were not able to do it."

The 124-year-old tower gets about 25,000 tourists daily. Though it is open every day, it occasionally closes because of suicide threats, bomb threats—or strikes. □



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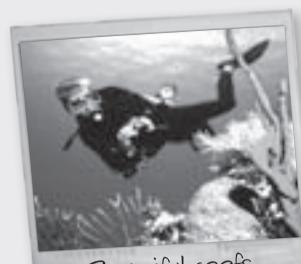
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## Brazil protests continue despite proposed reforms



Suspects sit with their hands behind their backs after their arrest during a police operation in the Nova Holanda slum, part of the Complexo da Mare, in Rio de Janeiro, Tuesday, June 25, 2013. The police operation aimed to capture an alleged looter, who according to police killed an officer after a peaceful protest Monday night. At least seven people died and two suspects were captured during Tuesday's operation, according to police.

(AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

hoods. About 1,000 people in Niteroi marched and other demonstrations took place in five other states. Police in Rio de Janeiro charged into the Nova Holanda slum and killed at least eight people as they hunted for the killer of a police officer who died after a protest the night before that devolved into a clash with demonstrators who looted stores and robbed bystanders.

"We think the people who are most interested in the demands being made in the street demonstrations of the past several days are those who live in these kind of poor areas," said Guilherme Boulos, one of the leaders of Tuesday's protests on Sao Paulo's outskirts.

So far, Brazilian protesters don't appear appeased by Rousseff's proposals, which shifted some of the burden for progress onto Brazil's widely loathed Congress by calling for a plebiscite on political reform lawmakers will have to approve. The divided Congress would likely struggle to take any quick action on such a plebiscite.

Protesters have filled cities to air a wide spectrum of grievances including poor public services and the high cost of hosting next year's World Cup soccer tournament and the 2016 Olympics.

About 100,000 people were expected to march

in the city of Belo Horizonte on Wednesday before Brazil plays Uruguay in the semifinals of the Confederations Cup. City officials declared a holiday and said they were expecting confrontations with demonstrators.

Sepp Blatter, president of international soccer organizing body FIFA, was scheduled to attend the game. FIFA officials have said security has been boosted because of the protests, but it wasn't immediately known if any changes were expected in Belo Horizonte because of Blatter's presence.

In Porto Alegre, Ronaldo Sielichow, president of that city's Association of Store Owners, asked law enforcement to beef up security after looting hit the southern city over the past few days during demonstrations.

Rousseff told governors and mayors Monday that her administration would allocate \$23 billion for new spending on urban public transport, but she didn't provide details on what the new projects would be. Four leaders from the free-transit activist group that launched the demonstrations more than a week ago said she also gave them no concrete plans while meeting with them.

She said her government would focus on five priorities: fiscal responsibility and controlling inflation; political reform; health care; public transport, and education. In her weekly column posted Tuesday on the presidency's website, Rousseff said: "The money spent to build or renovate stadiums for the World Cup is not part of the federal budget and does not affect funds earmarked for health and education." □



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**STAN LEHMAN**

Associated Press

**SAO PAULO (AP)** — Protesters returned to the streets in smaller, sporadic protests in a handful of Brazilian cities Tuesday, demanding better education, transport and health services.

The protests came one day after President Dilma Rousseff proposed a wide range of actions to reform Brazil's political system.

Protesters left a slum in Rio and peacefully marched toward a rich beach neighborhood. In Sao Paulo, some groups blocked major highways while others marched earlier in the day in impoverished neighbor-

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## Draghi defends European Central Bank crisis measures

DAVID McHUGH

GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — European Central Bank head Mario Draghi again defended the ECB's bond-buying program Tuesday, saying the crisis backstop was more important now following recent market turbulence sparked by other central banks around the world. Draghi said in a speech in Berlin that the offer to buy bonds issued by indebted countries "is even more essential now as we see potential changes in the monetary policy stance, with associated uncertainty, in other jurisdictions of the global economy."

The U.S. Federal Reserve

has roiled markets by indicating it could taper off its emergency stimulus measures next year. The Fed has been buying longer-term bonds in the open market, which drove down long-term interest rates and sent stocks and bonds higher.

Meanwhile, Chinese authorities have tried to rein in excessive lending, leading to a spike last week in interbank borrowing rates. Japan has also said it will add large monetary stimulus. Draghi did not mention any central bank by name. Draghi said that the ECB's exit from its own stimulus measures "is still distant, since inflation is low and unemployment is high."

The ECB's steps have included the bond offer; cheap, unlimited loans to banks; and a record low

benchmark rate of 0.5 percent. The 17-country euro-zone remains in recession with an unemployment

rate of 12.2 percent. The ECB hasn't bought any bonds since announcing its plan last year. □



The President of the European Central Bank, ECB, Mario Draghi delivers the opening speech at the annual meeting of the ruling Christian Democratic Union, CDU, party's Economic Council in Berlin, Germany, Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

## Strike shuts down Indian Kashmir as Singh visits

AIJAZ HUSSAIN

Associated Press

**SRINAGAR, India (AP)** — Shops, businesses and schools were closed in Indian-controlled Kashmir after separatist groups called for a strike Tuesday to protest a visit by the Indian prime minister to the disputed Himalayan region.

Large numbers of police and paramilitary forces were deployed in Srinagar, Kashmir's main city, a day after a daring rebel attack in which eight army soldiers were killed and 13 others were wounded.

Police closed off several main roads in Srinagar. Paramilitary soldiers with automatic weapons swarmed a convention center where Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was to meet local officials later Tuesday to review the progress of development projects in the state.

The Himalayan territory of

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan and claimed entirely by both. More than a dozen rebel groups in Indian-controlled Kashmir have been fighting since 1989 for its independence or merger with Pakistan.

More than 68,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the fighting. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Islamic militants and sending them into Indian-held Kashmir to attack government forces and other targets — a charge Islamabad denies. India and Pakistan have fought two of three wars over control of Kashmir since their independence from Britain in 1947.

Late Monday, in a message to local news agencies, Kashmir's biggest rebel group,

Hizb-ul Mujahideen, claimed responsibility for the attack. □

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# Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro visits Haiti

**EVENS SANON**

**Associated Press**

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro made his first official visit to Haiti on Tuesday as the countries began negotiations to figure out ways to renew a special fund that uses oil money on mostly infrastructure projects.

Maduro and Haitian President Michel Martelly met privately for several hours on the grounds of where the National Palace stood before it collapsed in the 2010 earthquake.

Venezuela is one of the biggest donors to help impoverished Haiti rebuild from the catastrophic 2010 earthquake.

Much of that support comes from Venezuela's PetroCaribe fund, a pact created in 2005 that gives suppliers below-market fi-

nancing for oil.

It has an interest rate of only 1 percent to 2 percent with a two-year grace period, and the funds are welcome by Haiti because they are under the control of the central government. Under the agreement, Haiti has used millions of dollars from PetroCaribe to pay for fuel, renovate power stations, and develop social programs.

The money was also used to repave a runway at the international airport in Haiti's second largest city; the facility was renamed for Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez.

"President Chavez wanted to come here but he didn't get a chance to come back," Maduro told reporters.

"I'm here representing President Chavez."

Ninety four percent of the



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, center, greets supporters as he walks with Haiti's President Michel Martelly, right, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, June 25, 2013. Maduro is visiting Haiti in his first official trip to the Caribbean nation as president.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

## Jamaican seeking changes to anti-sodomy law

**DAVID McFADDEN**

**Associated Press**

**KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)**

— A gay rights activist got his first court hearing Tuesday on his effort to bring a constitutional challenge to Jamaica's nearly 150-year-old colonial-era law that bans sex between men.

The rare court challenge to the 1864 anti-sodomy law is being pushed by Javed Jaghai, a young outreach worker for the Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals & Gays, the Caribbean

country's sole gay rights group. On Tuesday, the matter had its initial mention in the chambers of Jamaica's Supreme Court. Justice Carol Edwards gave the attorney general, who is named as the defendant, until mid-September to file a response and the next hearing was scheduled for early October. Jaghai is seeking authorization to take his case to the Constitutional Court. Edwards authorized a number of religious associations

and a child advocacy group to join the case as interested parties. Homosexuality is perceived as a sin by Jamaica's influential religious lobby and nearly a dozen other Caribbean nations where anti-sodomy laws are on the books. The rarely used law bans anal sex and sets a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and hard labor. Anything interpreted as "gross indecency" between men can be punished by two years in prison.

current infrastructure, agriculture and education projects are being done in Haiti are being done through the PetroCaribe fund, Martelly told reporters at a press event that began five hours late. The leaders didn't take questions.

Haitian Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe and Martelly attended Chavez's funeral, and Martelly attended Maduro's inauguration in April.

That same month, Maduro was supposed to travel to Port-au-Prince for a re-

gional summit hosted by Martelly but cancelled. The event brought together more than a dozen heads of state.

In the first visit by a Venezuelan head-of-state since Chavez came in 2007, Maduro spent the day with Martelly, the two wearing white guayaberas and accompanied by their wives. Before reaching the presidential grounds, they toured a national museum and viewed a statue in a public plaza in downtown Port-au-Prince. □

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# LOCAL Aruba TODAY

## An Aruban Olympic hopeful: Paseo Herencia honors Zaithyel Soekandar on their “Wall of Fame”



**PALM BEACH** - Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall in Palm Beach is more than a shopping center, it is a history lesson of Aruba, past, present and in the making. Owners and management take particular pleasure in showcasing young athletes who are fine role models for Aruban youth. Their “Wall of Fame,” co-sponsored by CMB Bank, is dedicated to those who demonstrate the talent, determination and tenacity it takes to attain medal-winning status in the international arena

of sports competition. The newest addition to the Wall of Fame is BMX biker Zaithyel Soekandar. The fifteen-year-old presently holds second place in his division in the world of BMX biking competition, having recently come home with the bronze medal from the Pan American games. His father, Audy, a former BMX competitor and his coach, Pedro Estaba, are confident that Zaithyel will be Aruba's first athlete to fully qualify for the next Summer Olympics Games in 2016.



By that time, he will be of an age past the youth divisions, and can compete as an adult in the “Elite” category. Paseo Herencia welcomed Zaithyel to their Wall of Fame by hosting a bike rally for enthusiasts of all ages late Sunday afternoon, June 23. Leading the pack with Zaithyel as they made their way from Palm Beach to Eagle Beach and back was Aruba's Minister of Health and Sports, Richard Visser, and Parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn. Paseo Herencia GM Valerie Pietersz-Camacho and Marketing Manager Candy Rasmijn, with their children, also joined the rally to show support for a healthy lifestyle and proper exercise. Zaithyel's portrait was unveiled to his proud parents, Minerva Kock and Audy, and the public, at the finish of the rally.

Zaithyel, is known as “Z” to his friends, as well as “Zoolander” and “The Missile” on the biking circuit. He and his younger brother, Zyzion, were declared the champions at the Day 1 races of the BMX Gator Nationals in Oldsmar, Florida in March of this year. Both now race for the U.S. team GHP in such events. Prior to this race on the U.S. National championship cir-



cuit, “Z” also took the top title at First Youth Dutch Caribbean BMX Championships in his division in November of last year. Despite having suffered a broken collarbone twice and serious injury to his kidney, “Z” is a fierce competitor and devoted to the sport. “When I was young, I loved doing all sports; soccer, swimming anything,” he explained. “But my father loved BMX biking and when I tried it, something really clicked for me. I know this sport was my desire. I have been training and competing since I was seven.” His father, Audy, travels with his son to every competition, and they are about to depart for the U.S. for the summer round of qualifying meets that give him points towards the 2016 Olympics. Then it will be off to New Zealand for the big one: the UCI BMX World Championships in Auckland, July 24-28. Zaithyel is training daily, 25-28 hours weekly, determined to bring the gold home to Aruba. □



**At the Pelican Pier:**

## Aruba Synchro athletes, US colleagues enjoy a family day!



**ORANJESTAD** – Aruba Today was at the Pelican Pier, and had a very pleasant conversation with the Synchro Athlete Anouk Eman. She commented that she, together with another colleague, Kyra Hovertsz, are training hard for an international competition which will



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take place in Barcelona, Spain in July. Anouk and Kyra will represent Aruba in the category of duet and individual. Anouk also told AT that two of her American colleagues came to Aruba, together with their family and took their time during their stay on the island to enjoy it to the fullest. They went on a boat with the Aruban Athletes, having a terrific time. □

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## Tierra del Sol's Heritage Cup 2013: Rasmijn takes the Lead!!



**WEST PUNT** - It was a perfect day to play golf on Saturday at Tierra del Sol. Players' scores were very close, but one as always has to win. Orlando Rasmijn with 37 stableford points. First place Prize a Box of Fine Cigars from proud sponsor The Humidor. Second place Dr. Hunt Riley by way of scorecard playoff took second place with 36 points. Closest to the pin Matthew Brinkman, Chivas Regal birdie achievement went to Matthew Brinkman.

Pepia Est. N.V. also joined the Heritage Cup event with a Single Malt Whiskey tasting, what better way to enjoy a Cigar then with a Scotch in the other hand.

One more week to go.... Who can make their move into the top 5 before the final event.... Next week Event 4 will tell.... This is the Heritage Cup 2013 presented by The Humidor at Tierra del Sol Resort Spa & Country Club.□



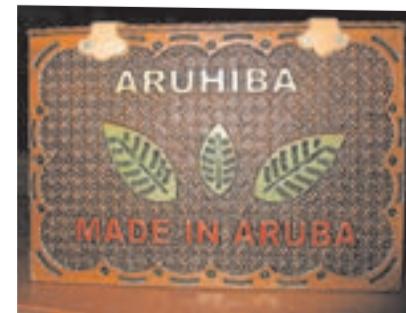
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**ORANJESTAD**- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the Westin Resort, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also available at their Tobacco farm where their cigars are grown and rolled.



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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### Williams eying 17<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam

AP Tennis Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — After a week filled by a headline-grabbing, off-court tiff with Maria Sharapova and a series of apologies stemming from a magazine profile, Serena Williams got back to doing what she does best. Better than anyone in the world right now, really.



Serena Williams reacts as she plays Mandy Minella of Luxembourg in a Women's first round singles match in Wimbledon, London, Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Sang Tan)

Extending her winning streak to 32 matches, the longest single-season run on the women's tour since 2000, Williams began her bid for a sixth Wimbledon championship and 17th Grand Slam title overall with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over 92nd-ranked Mandy Minella of Luxembourg on Tuesday. "You can call her pretty much unbeatable," Minella said. "She's playing better than ever. ... Every time she steps on court, you can see why." And yet Williams, the defending champion at the All England Club, and Patrick Mouratoglou, the French coach who's been helping her during the current 75-3 stretch that dates to the start of Wimbledon last year, both gave this assessment: There are areas of her game that could use some fine-tuning.

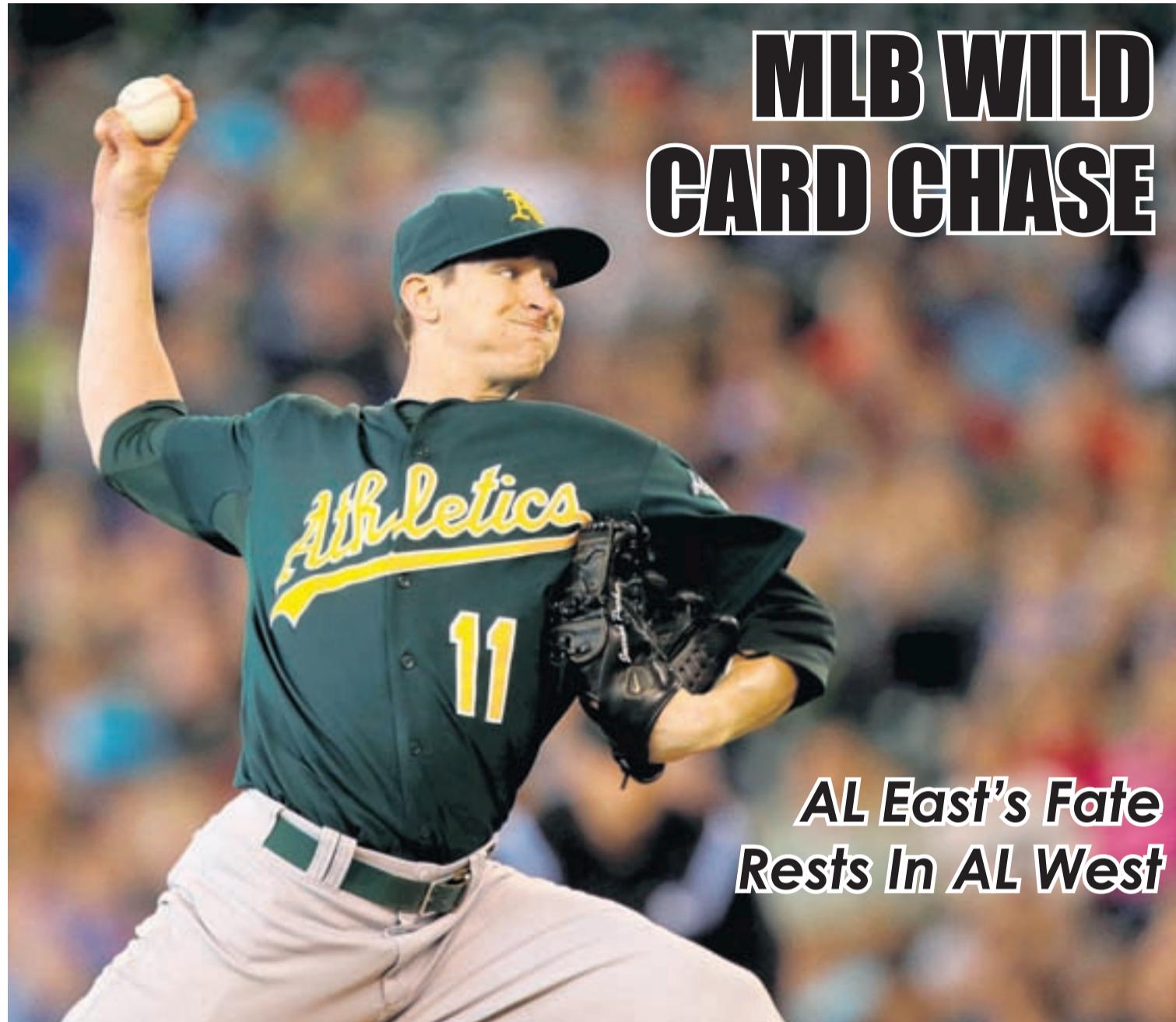
Continued on Page 18

# SPORTS | A17

WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2013

## MLB WILD CARD CHASE

### AL East's Fate Rests In AL West



Oakland Athletics starting pitcher Jarrod Parker throws in the first inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Sunday, June 23, 2013, in Seattle.

#### BENJAMIN HOFFMAN

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One division's loss is another division's gain, at least in terms of wild-card standings. The wild card, introduced by major league baseball for the 1995 season, has often been a consolation prize to whichever team finished second in the American League East. But with the overmatched Houston Astros switching from the National League to the American League West this season, the East suddenly has some competition for that doorway into the postseason.

In essence, baseball's unbalanced schedule, in which teams play far more

games against clubs in their own divisions, has meant that the Astros have turned into punching bags for some of the other clubs in the AL West, allowing them to fatten their records. And that has created a headache for AL East teams, who do not play the Astros nearly as often. The effect of this disparity could be telling. Before last season, when a second wild-card slot was introduced for each league, a team from the AL East took the lone extra spot in the playoffs in 13 of 17 seasons. And with the Baltimore Orioles capturing one of the two spots last season, the East has had a share of the

wild card in each of the last six years.

The standings in the American League through Sunday had the Orioles holding on to the second wild-card spot by half a game over the New York Yankees. Just two and a half games behind the Yankees were two more AL East clubs: the Toronto Blue Jays, winners of 11 consecutive games entering Monday, and the Tampa Bay Rays. But in the top wild-card spot, three games ahead of the Yankees in the win column, were the Oakland Athletics of the AL West. A streaky team this season, they might not have been doing so well over all had

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

the Astros not joined their division.

Indeed, if you subtract the Athletics' 9-0 record against the Astros this season, Oakland's record goes from 44-34 to 35-34, a winning percentage that would put them well out of contention.

And it is not just the Athletics who have benefited from the Astros' move. The Texas Rangers, currently leading the AL West by one game, have gone 5-1 against Houston. The Seattle Mariners are off to a back-and-forth start against their new division patsies, with a 4-5 record.

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## Wimbledon:

## Back on court, Williams stretches winning streak

Continued from Page 17

"After today, there's so many ways that I can improve," the No. 1-ranked and No. 1-seeded Williams said, "and that I'm going to need to improve if I want to be in the second week of this tournament." Really? How about some examples?

"Come on," Williams replied, tilting her head and smiling. Here was Mouratoglou's take after watching Williams win her first 17 service points and compile a 25-5 edge in total winners on Centre Court: "I mean, of course, not everything is perfect yet. It's interesting to see what we need to work on for the (coming) days." They also agreed that she did not have too hard a time setting aside the events of the previous seven days, which included a lot of saying "I'm sorry" — face-to-face with Sharapova, at a news conference, in two separate statements posted on the web — over things Williams was quoted as saying in a Rolling Stone story. Williams made a negative reference in a phone conversation to a top-five player's love life (the piece's author surmised that was about Sharapova) and an off-the-cuff remark about a widely publicized rape case in the U.S. that was perceived by some as criticizing the victim.

"It hasn't been a distraction," Williams insisted. "I'm just here to focus on the tennis."

All in all, by easily winning her first match since claiming the French Open title on June 8, she helped restore order at Wimbledon 24 hours after a chaotic Day 1. It was a day that included the only first-round Grand Slam loss of 12-time major champion Rafael Nadal's career and a scary-looking, knee-twisting tumble by two-time Australian Open winner Victoria Azarenka during her win. The highest-seeded player to depart Tuesday was No. 10 Maria Kirilenko, beaten 6-3, 6-4 by teenager Laura Robson, the first British woman to beat a top-10 player at Wimbledon in 15 years. Of the 10 local players who entered the tournament, Robson and reigning U.S. Open champion Andy Murray, last year's runner-up at the All England Club, are the only two left.

"It's hard for all the British players to come in here and, you know, lose first round," said Robson, who beat Kim Clijsters at the 2012 U.S. Open in the last match of the four-time major champion's career, "because you just feel extra disappointed."

Other women winning easily included No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska, the 2012 runner-up to Williams; 2011



**Serena Williams of the United States serves to Mandy Minella of Luxembourg during their Women's first round singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Tuesday, June 25, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Sang Tan)

French Open champion Li Na; and No. 7 Angelique Kerber, who eliminated Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the U.S. 6-3, 6-4.

Nadal's straight-set loss to 135th-ranked Steve Darcis was still a main topic of conversation, and top-seeded Novak Djokovic called it a reminder that "you cannot take anything or anybody for granted."

"To be honest, I was expecting him to be a bit rusty on the court," Djokovic said. "In the opening rounds, obviously, it's very dangerous for top players who haven't been playing on grass. ... On the other side of the net is somebody

that is lower ranked, he has nothing to lose, so he's going for his shots."

As Djokovic dispatched 34th-ranked Florian Mayer of Germany 6-3, 7-5, 6-4, the only real hitch was when he slipped to the Centre Court grass. No. 4 David Ferrer, who reached his first Grand Slam final at the French Open but lost to Nadal, took two falls and said he felt a "little bit of pain" in his left ankle during a 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory over 101st-ranked Martin Alund of Argentina.

Sam Querrey, an American seeded 21st, lost 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3), 3-6, 2-6, 6-3 to 59th-ranked Australian Bernard

Tomic in a match most noteworthy for what was said afterward.

Tomic ripped into the ATP for barring his father, who is also his coach, from attending tournaments for 12 months because of pending assault charges and said he'll ask Wimbledon to let Dad attend his next match. Querrey, meanwhile, was miffed that Tomic got a chance to collect himself while being checked by trainers after saying he felt lightheaded in the fourth set.

"I knew he was kind of dizzy, but let's go; it's a physical game," Querrey said.

□

## MLB Wild-Cards: AL East's fate rests in AL West

Continued from Page 17

The Los Angeles Angels are the exception in the division, having gone 3-7 against Houston, including a four-game sweep that the Astros somehow pulled off earlier this month. Over all, the Astros are 13-21 in division games.

The situation is similar in the NL Central, the former home of the Astros, where the Chicago Cubs have a major league-worst 9-24 record against division opponents, which has helped

lead to both leaders in the NL wild-card standings — Pittsburgh and Cincinnati — coming from that division. Unfortunately for the Yankees, and the other four teams in the AL East, their division has no weak link. It should be noted that much of Houston's current trouble is almost by design. Houston's general manager, Jeff Luhnow, has been engineering an ambitious rebuilding project for the last few seasons, letting the major league club suffer in hopes of creating a contender. The strategy has re-

sulted in the team's picking first in the draft for two consecutive years, using those picks on Carlos Correa, a high school shortstop from Puerto Rico, and Mark Appel, a starting pitcher from Stanford. If things go right, the two could eventually anchor the Astros for years to come.

**New York Yankees shortstop Jayson Nix, top, leaps over a sliding Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria who was forced out after James Loney hit into a first-inning double play on Sunday, June 23, 2013, in New York.**

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)



## NASCAR NOTES:

## Truex Jr. checked to make sure win wasn't a dream

JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) -- After 218 consecutive losses, Martin Truex Jr. wasn't quite certain he'd actually won at Sonoma Raceway when he woke the day after the victory.

"I have not stopped smiling since Sunday, as you can imagine," Truex said Tuesday. "I woke up Monday morning and looked at my phone to make sure it really happened and I wasn't just dreaming. It's been way too long since I felt this good, and hopefully the next one won't be too far away."

Truex's previous only Sprint Cup Series win had been at Dover in 2007, and it took him more than six years to get back to Victory Lane. He'd been close plenty of times with Michael Waltrip Racing, only to come up short in his bid for a win.

This year alone, he led 142 laps at Texas but finished second, was fourth at Kansas after leading 46 laps, had an engine failure on a strong car at Dover and

on the road course at Sonoma, he was greeted by 131 text messages, 17 voice mails and 15 emails all offering congratulatory words.

Among the well-wishers was Dale Earnhardt Jr., who had a lengthy text conversation with Truex when he finally arrived back in North Carolina at

were Cup teammates at DEI for two full seasons.

"I can't really talk about what all we said to each other, but he was pretty impressed," Truex said. "He said 'Do you believe you just won at Sonoma? I tell everybody how good you are, and then you go win at the hardest place on the circuit.' "

What followed was a Monday night victory party attended by Truex's parents, friends and his MWR crew, which had never before won a race. The last time the NAPA car was in Victory Lane was in 2003 when Michael Waltrip drove it for DEI.

So the current crew members at MWR had never made it to Victory Lane. Waltrip essentially created the team from scratch with his NAPA sponsorship in 2006 when he formed his own team. □



Martin Truex Jr. takes the checkered flag as he wins the NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race Sunday, June 23, 2013, in Sonoma, Calif.

(AP Photo/Ben Margot)

was third at Michigan. In 2011, he finished second or third four times.

So when he finally grabbed that elusive win Sunday

"Not to mention my Twitter page was locked up, and I can't even get back through to all of them," Truex said.

3 am Monday morning. Truex won a pair of Nationwide Series championships driving for Dale Earnhardt Inc., and he and Earnhardt

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## Koepka gets major upgrade in Europe, another major

**DOUG FERGUSON**  
**The Associated Press**

Brooks Koepka played six straight weeks in six countries, knowing only that he would be flying home to Florida on Tuesday for a break he desperately needed.

He just didn't realize how much different the road map would be when he gets back to work.

Koepka is another young American who's taking the European route, and the payoff was measured in more than euros. The 23-year-old from Florida State won a Challenge Tour event in Scotland on Sunday, his third win of the season that gave him an instant promotion to the European Tour.

Still running on fumes, he took an early morning flight Monday from Scotland to London, drove straight to Sunningdale Golf Club and shot rounds of 69-65 for the low score among nine players who qualified for the British Open at Muirfield.

"Scotland was awesome. There was a lot of motivation there to get that third win before I headed back to the States," Koepka said Monday night. "And then the qualifier, I honestly don't know how I did it. I was running on two or three hours of sleep. I was thoroughly exhausted. Adrenaline or something took over. But as soon as I got off the golf course, I was done."

Instead of returning to a Challenge Tour event in Switzerland or Italy, he will play alongside Phil Mickelson and a host of other stars at Castle Stuart for the Scottish Open, his first event as a full European Tour member. Then, he will

drive south to Muirfield for his second major championship.

One item on the agenda while he's home is to sit down with agent Blake Smith at Hambric Sports

and figure out a schedule the rest of the year.

"Just getting on the European Tour is big in itself," Koepka said. "I get to play with some of the best players in the world, and it

will be nice to have some feedback with Peter, who's someone I really enjoy being around."

That would be Peter Uihlein, his roommate in south Florida, and someone who

knows these ropes. Uihlein also started his pro career on the smaller Challenge Tour in Europe, and he won the Madeira Island Open last month to secure his European Tour card. □



Brooks Koepka is another young American who's taking the European tour route, and the payoff has been measured in more than euros.

(Handout Photo)

## Mexico loses again at Under-20 World Cup

**MICHAEL CASEY**

**AP Sports Writer**

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — Mexico was on the brink of an early exit from the Under-20 World Cup after losing 1-0 to Paraguay on Tuesday, while newcomer El Salvador stunned Australia 2-1. Colombia, meanwhile, got its campaign on track with a 1-0 win over host Turkey. The victory moves the South American champions to the top of Group C following a disappointing opening draw against Australia. The win also denied Turkey an early chance to advance.

Paraguay, which drew its opening match against Mali, made the break-

through in the 52nd minute when substitute Arnaldo Sanabria fed Derlis Gonzalez, who scored with a superb side-footed volley.

As the CONCACAF champion, Mexico and its potent attack featuring Jesus Corona and Marco Bueno had been tipped as one of the tournament favorites. But it has struggled to perform in Turkey and Tuesday's match was no different. It missed several good chances — hitting the post twice, including with a free kick from Jorge Espericueta in the final minute.

Having lost 2-1 to Greece in its previous game, Mexico finds itself bottom of Group D with a match against

Mali remaining. Paraguay and Greece lead the group with four points after the Greeks drew 0-0 with Mali to also miss out on an early chance to qualify for the next round.

In Group C, El Salvador improved its chances of advancing with a victory that put its first points on the board.

Australia, which had earned a deserved 1-1 draw against fancied Colombia, started well with Joshua Brillante putting the young Socceroos ahead in the ninth minute.

But El Salvador, which lost 3-0 to Turkey in its opener, drew level just eight minutes later. Jairo Henriquez

delivered a deep cross which Kevin Barahona headed back across goal and into the path of Diego Coca, who scored.

Jose Pena provided the winner in the 40th, steering home a low cross from Miguel Ochoa.

After an uneventful first half, Turkey went on the attack and nearly scored courtesy of a dipping, swerving free-kick from about 30 yards (meters) by Hakan Calhanoglu.

But Colombia responded in style, with Juan Quintero twisting and turning just inside the area and then firing a blazing shot into the roof of the net in the 52nd. □

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## Bruins head into offseason proud after s stunning loss

HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** -- Don't tell David Krejci that adversity makes you stronger. Certainly not the shocking kind that left the Boston Bruins wondering how a night of hope became, in a mere 17 seconds, a long summer of disappointment.

That's all the time the Chicago Blackhawks needed to score two goals in the last 76 seconds and win the Stanley Cup with a 3-2 victory on Monday night. For the Bruins, Sunday's NHL draft, not a seventh and deciding game in Chicago, is the next big event. "It's not even a point to say that it's going to make us stronger in the future," said Krejci, the top scorer in this year's playoffs. "It's going to hurt for a while."

What went wrong?

"I don't know what happened," the Bruins center said. "It just did, you know?"

Management, though, must push on through the pain.

The Bruins have no first-round draft pick. They sent that to the Dallas Stars on April 2 for Jaromir Jagr, who had no goals in the playoffs. He did have 10 assists but was limited in Game 6 by injury.

They do have key players who could become free agents - goalie Tuukka Rask, right wing Nathan Horton, defenseman Andrew Ference - plus Jagr and backup goalie Anton Khudobin.

Rask emerged as one of the NHL's top goalies with a strong postseason. Horton had seven goals and 12 assists in the playoffs, but no goals and two assists against Chicago. Ference is a 13-year veteran

and could be supplanted by Torey Krug or Matt Bartkowski. Both showed promise as rookies.

Rask is the most important member of that group. He played 36 of 48 games in the lockout-shortened season and all 22 playoff games. He was a worthy successor to Tim Thomas, the MVP of the 2011 postseason who took this season off rather than try for a second championship in three years.

"It was kind of a roller-coaster," Rask said. "It was a difficult season even to start with because you know you're going to have a real tight schedule, play almost every other night. We played some good hockey and some not-so-good hockey."

"Going to the playoffs we made a miracle in the first round going through Toronto after that deficit. We made a good run."

Coach Claude Julien said he wasn't shocked, just disappointed - and proud of his players.

"It was tough walking in that dressing room and seeing how disappointed everybody was, and to try and tell them, as I often say, there's a lot of teams that would have loved to have been in our position," he said. "It's my job to do that and to let them know that it's been a great year."

Boston had 17 players from the team that won the Cup in 2011. There shouldn't be much turnover this offseason, either.

The Bruins are still waiting for Tyler Seguin to live up to his status as the second pick in the 2010 draft. He had 13 goals in the regular season but one in the playoffs. "I've never felt anything like this." □

## 2 goals in 17 seconds lift Blackhawks to cup

JEFF Z. KLEIN

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**BOSTON** - The Chicago Blackhawks completed perhaps the most improbable Stanley Cup clinching comeback in history Monday night. Trailing the Boston Bruins, 2-1, with 76 seconds left, the Blackhawks erupted for two goals 17 seconds apart to stun the Bruins, 3-2, and win their second Cup in the last four

ously, that was a big goal for them to go up 2-1. But you never know what can happen, so you don't stop playing until the end." The TD Garden crowd, roaring in celebration, suddenly fell silent. The only cheers came from the 200 friends and family chartered in by the Blackhawks. As they watched, the 34 1/2-pound silver chalice was wheeled out and pre-

"These are the feelings you live for," Kane said as he celebrated with his family on the Garden ice. It was the Blackhawks' fifth championship, joining their triumphs in 1934, 1938, 1961 and 2010. The Blackhawks' lightning-strike goals brought to an end a classic series among the two Original Six teams. The Bruins came out hard and kept charging, overwhelm-



**Chicago Blackhawks left wing Bryan Bickell (29) celebrates his game-tying goal in the third period against Boston Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara, bottom left, of Slovakia, and goalie Tuukka Rask (40), of Finland, in Game 6 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals Monday, June 24, 2013, in Boston. Chicago won 3-2 to win the Stanley Cup.** (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

seasons and fifth overall. Milan Lucic put the Bruins ahead, 2-1, with 7:49 left in regulation, seemingly forcing a Game 7 in Chicago on Wednesday. But then lightning struck. With 1:16 left, Bryan Bickell finished a feed from Jonathan Toews, knocking the puck past goaltender Tuukka Rask. Then, with 59 seconds to go, Dave Bolland shot a rebound off the goal post past the sprawling Rask. "How can you call that?" Toews said, beaming, in the moments after victory. "We knew we needed just one bounce there. Obvi-

sented by Commissioner Gary Bettman to Toews, who raised it over his head in triumph. He became the first captain in the 87-year history of the Blackhawks to lift the Cup twice. Bolland's and Bickell's goals ended this almost unbearably tense series, in which three games went into overtime. Patrick Kane was voted the winner of the Conn Smythe Trophy as the playoffs' most valuable player, becoming the third straight American to receive the honor. Kane scored nine goals and 10 assists in the postseason.

ing the Blackhawks in the first period. But they scored only once, with a goal from the third line - Chris Kelly, Tyler Seguin and Daniel Paille. They practically owned the Blackhawks, penning them in their own end for long stretches and swarming goalie Corey Crawford. Finally, at 7:19 the three combined to score, Paille to Seguin to Kelly, who finished a backhand feed for his second goal of the finals, and of the playoffs. The Blackhawks did not mount a real threat until the fifth minute of the second period. □

# Headache relief

By: Dr. Carlos Viana



The French words for headache; mal de tête, has always seemed to make the affliction sound much less ominous. Thankfully most headaches are not serious even if very painful. However, head pain, in every country, is the most common human affliction and, even in this age of advances in medical technology there is still far more that we do not know about headaches than that which we do know.

In many eastern medical practices, especially Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) headaches have been treated with a higher success rate than they have in the West. Furthermore, TCM has a much different approach to understanding headaches, health, and the person as a whole.

Western, allopathic medicine classifies headaches by their specific symptoms and measurable biological effects. Individu-

als are usually classified as having a certain type of headache and treatment is based of this classification. There are eleven main types of headache classifications in western medicine. The first four are the most common and serious types of headaches and include head pain caused from vascular (brain arteries changing shape), muscle contraction (tightness), traction, and inflammation.

The other types of headaches include environmental or behavioral headaches caused by factors such as caffeine withdrawal, eyestrain, poor posture, and hunger. Trauma headaches are headaches that result from an injury often times, which is minor. Sensitivity headaches are a reaction to an allergy, food, chemical or environmental substance. Finally, sinus headaches, dental headaches, and exertion headaches are self explanatory.

Pharmaceuticals, which have dangerous side affects, are by far the most widely used treatment for headaches in western medicine, but allopathic Doctors do recognize the role played with food in headaches. Western doctors recognize sugar, MSG (Monosodium Glutamate, a flavor enhancer used in many foods), and food allergies as primary prevention factors in treating headaches. However, this is not nearly considered to be as important a

factor as it is in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Unfortunately, much more common treatment of headaches is through the use of pharmaceuticals. These pharmaceuticals are man made chemicals constructed with the intention of correcting a chemical imbalance. Western Medicine usually sees these imbalances as coming from the liver, the endocrine system, and occasionally the nervous system. This treatment also includes the regulation of hormones, mostly in women and is tied to the menstruation cycle. Many women find that they get headaches the day before menstrual flow begins or the day that flow actually begins an effect of estrogen withdrawal.

Traditional Chinese medicine sees a headache essentially as a disharmony within the person. Thus our treatment is to rebalance the disharmony, which in turn will help not only the headache but make the individual healthier as a whole. In our clinic we take on an approach that identifies the source of the head pain. We know that everything in existence is related. Slow moving colons produce purification chemicals with an extremely unpleasant smell that stimulates mucus production in the sinuses, chest, and produce headaches. Colon hydrotherapy or the washing of the large intestines is an easy detoxification procedure that eliminates headaches from this source.

Acupuncture is a useful, inexpensive and effective form of treatment

for people who suffer from chronic or migraine headaches. Studies have shown acupuncture to work better than conventional treatments alone and result in fewer headaches and no negative side affects.

Also, it has been shown repeatedly that acupuncture decreased the severity and frequency of headaches in those who experienced severe headaches. Acupuncture treatment involves the insertion of extremely fine needles into the skin at precise points in the body. It has been shown to help with migraine nausea and pain.

Many of the sources of headache pain we have seen in our clinic include dental problems and the toxic heavy metals that leak from dental amalgams. Headaches and migraines are an often reported complaint of people who have amalgam fillings in their teeth. Dentists knowledgeable in biocompatible dentistry are very effective in improving the condition.

Herbal tradition has used the herbs like dandelion to treat head pain. Dandelion combined with herbs that also detoxify and support the liver are an even better combination. Eating foods right for your metabolic type and including a de-stressing exercise and getting enough sleep are good lifestyle choices.

Get The Point! The longer the headache or migraine is left untreated the harder it is to stop. Most of the pharmaceutical medications used for

headaches have dangerous side effects and can cause rebound, which is a serious worsening of your headache. You probably already know that when you develop a migraine what may help is being calm; staying in a dark, quiet room; and sleeping. Rather than wait for your next headache or migraine, consider treatment and prevention with acupuncture, herbal treatments, and a personalized diet that have a five thousand year old tract record. Call to make an appointment.

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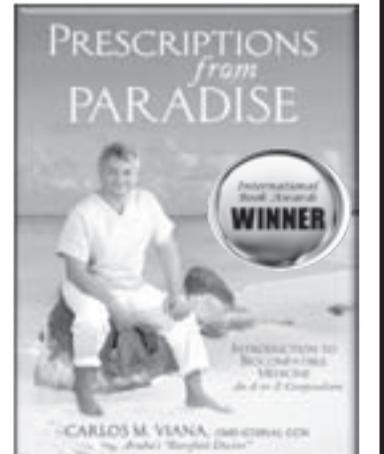
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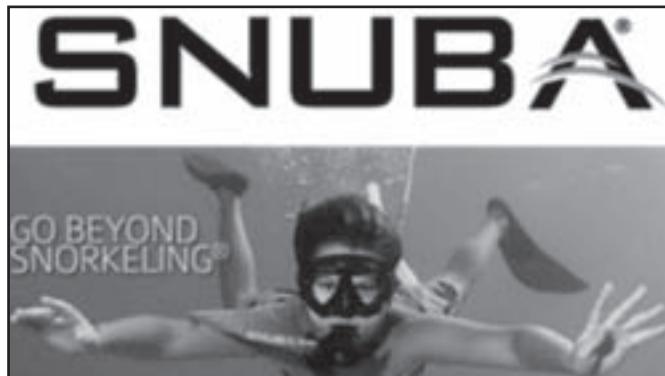


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## Google rivals seek tough EU antitrust move

BRUSSELS (AP) — A coalition of Google's competitors urged the European Union's antitrust watchdog Tuesday to reject the Internet giant's proposed concessions on displaying search results. "It would be better to do nothing than to accept Google's proposals," said Thomas Vinje of FairSearch, a group of 17 companies including Microsoft and TripAdvisor. "The proposals would make things worse rather than better," he insisted. The European Commission, the bloc's antitrust authority, has been investigating since 2010 whether Google is abusing its dominant market position and stifling competition. It pointed out several areas of concern, which Google is trying to address mainly by changing the way it displays search results. Google Inc.'s search engine enjoys a near-monopoly in Europe with a market share of about 90 percent, which gives it a huge edge over competitors to promote its own services such as Google News, Google Maps or its shopping and flight search functions. Complainants in the case had two months ending this week to provide the EU with feedback to the proposed remedies. The body's antitrust chief, Commissioner Joaquin Almunia, already hinted after the first month of the so-called market test that Google would be asked to do more to appease the competition concerns. Google has offered to more clearly label search results stemming from its own services to allow users to distinguish between natural search results and those promoted by Google. □

## Coding camps for kids rise in popularity

CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The video game Jacob Asofsky is creating is simple: "Someone who is trying to take over the world and you try to stop them."

The 12-year-old from Florida is spending two weeks at a summer camp in a program that teaches programming skills to young people.

"It's about having fun, but it also gives them the tools to be able to do this at home because they don't have this in school," said Taylor Jones, director of the iD Tech Camp at Atlanta's Emory University.

So-called coding camps for children are becoming more popular amid a growing effort to expand access to computer programming and inspire more youths to seek computer science degrees and careers in technology. Their rise underscores a seeming mismatch in the U.S. economy: people like Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Tumblr founder David Karp illustrate the opportunities programming skills can create, yet universities are not graduating enough code-savvy students to meet employers' demands.

The iD Tech Camps, which have grown from 200 students in 1999 to 28,000 enrolled this year in courses at dozens of locations nationwide, use interest in gaming to build bridges to computer programming and hopefully careers in web developing, film animation and app creation for smart phones. Courses start at \$829 for a one-week course during the day with overnight students paying \$1,348.

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Asofsky was attending an iD Tech Camp on the campus with some 95 other youths under the age of 17. He was using the gaming software RPG Maker to create a video game in which the main character travels around the world, buys animals and armor and interacts with others along the way.

veloper's Kit — also known as UDK — and learning programming languages like Java and C++. The idea is to build self-confidence and spark interest in learning how computers work, all to perhaps plant the seed of a future career in programming. There will be 1.4 million computing jobs by 2020

puter programming classes and the number of students graduating from college with a computer science degree is down from a decade ago, according to Code.org.

Earlier this year, President Barack Obama said programming should be a required course in high school, similar to foreign



A sign for Dev Bootcamp is shown at their office in San Francisco. Dev Bootcamp is one of a new breed of computer-programming schools that's proliferating in San Francisco and other U.S. tech hubs.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

"I have to say the interface of actually making a game is just as fun as playing a game," Asofsky said. "It's a lot like playing a game inside a game."

Early courses for children starting at age 7 use the photo and illustration software Adobe Photoshop and the gaming software Multimedia Fusion to create a simple arcade-style game.

"We sit down and talk about what makes games fun," said instructor Melissa Andrews, who was working with the youngest group of campers. "We get it down to the basics so they can make their own game."

Courses for older children include designing apps, creating sophisticated, 3-D, first-person shooter games using the Unreal De-

but only 400,000 computer science students by that time, according to Code.org, a nonprofit with a list of who's who in the tech world on its advisory board including Twitter creator Jack Dorsey and Dropbox CEO Drew Houston.

And such jobs pay well. The median annual wage for a computer programmer, for instance, was \$71,380 in 2010, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Meanwhile, jobs for network and computer systems administrators are growing at double the national average, with a median annual salary of \$69,160.

Yet high schools and universities seem to be out of step with the job market. Nine out of 10 U.S. high schools don't offer com-

language requirements.

"Given how pervasive computers and the internet is now and how integral it is into our economy and how fascinated kids are with it, I want to make sure they know how to actually produce stuff using computers and not just simply consume stuff," Obama said during a Google+ Hangout.

Yale Oseroff's high school doesn't offer programming classes. The 17-year-old is spending his fourth year at an iD Tech Camp working through C++, a popular programming language used for systems and application software, for drivers to communicate between an operating system and devices like printers and to create some video games. □

# Market rises: less on Fed chatter, more on economy

CHRISTINA REXRODE

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Wall Street got back to focusing on the economy instead of the Federal Reserve on Tuesday, sending stocks higher. Four reports showed a brightening U.S. economy. Housing and manufacturing continued to improve, and consumer confidence hit its highest level in 5 1/2 years. The major U.S. stock indexes closed higher, with the Dow Jones industrial average shooting up 100.75 points, or 0.7 percent, to 14,760.31. The Standard & Poor's index rose 14.94 points, or 1 percent, to 1,588.03.

The triple-digit rise in the Dow continues a bout of market volatility caused by investors and traders who are worried about the Fed ending its economic stimulus. Last Wednesday, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said he expects the Fed to end its bond buying by the middle of 2014 if it feels the economy can manage without that stimulus.

The Dow then plunged by triple digits on three of the next four trading days, with investors worried that the market would struggle without the Fed propping it up. Some investors have concluded that the recent sell-offs were overblown. Quincy Crosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial,

guessed that shorter-term traders were the ones buying stocks Tuesday because they judged that parts of the market were "oversold."

Long-term investors are likely still sitting on the sidelines, waiting for further signs that markets are becoming less volatile, she said.

Among the biggest gainers were big dividend payers like phone and power companies. These are stocks that have been hit the hardest by the recent sell-off. The big economic reports Tuesday revealed: —Orders for durable goods rose 3.6 percent in May, matching April's gain. The gauge is important because U.S. manufacturing has generally struggled this year as demand for American exports slows in other parts of the world.

—Home prices rose 2.5 percent in April compared with March, the biggest month-over-month gain since 2000, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller index of 20 cities.

—The Conference Board's consumer confidence index jumped to 81.4 in June, the best reading since January 2008. The May reading, however, was revised down to 74.3 from the original estimate of 76.2.

—Sales of new homes rose in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate

of 476,000, the Commerce Department said. That was the fastest pace since July 2008. Though sales of new homes remain below the 700,000 annual rate that most economists consider healthy, the pace has

thought the stock indexes had already reached their high points.

The fact that the second quarter ends on Friday will also likely complicate the market's performance this week. Money manag-

cent from 2.54 percent late Monday. That's part of a longer-term trend: Investors have been selling bonds in anticipation of the Fed winding down its bond-buying program. The price of gold slipped



Construction is underway on the infrastructure of a multi-acre housing development in Zelienople, Pa. The Commerce Department reported positive data on new-home sales for May, on Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

jumped 29 percent from a year ago.

Ben Schwartz, chief market strategist at Lightspeed Financial in Chicago, described Tuesday as a day for the market to stabilize after the recent big plunges. But he predicted that the market could be volatile for the rest of the year, and others said they

ers may pull out because they need to book gains for clients. The stronger economic news for the U.S. led investors to sell U.S. government bonds, a sign that they're more comfortable putting money in stocks. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, a benchmark for many types of loans, rose to 2.6 per-

\$2 to \$1,275.10 an ounce, and the price of crude oil rose 14 cents to \$95.32 a barrel.

Among stocks making big moves:

—Walgreen, the nation's largest drugstore chain, slipped after reporting earnings and revenue that missed analysts' expectations. Walgreen's stock fell \$2.83, or nearly 6 percent, to \$45.22.

—Barnes & Noble plunged after reporting a loss that more than doubled in the latest quarter. The bookseller struggled to compete with online retailers and its Nook e-book continued to lose money. The stock fell \$3.21, or more than 17 percent, to \$15.61.

—Clothing chain Men's Wearhouse rose after saying it had fired executive chairman George Zimmer, the company's founder and star of its TV commercials, because he had advocated for "significant changes that would enable him to regain control," according to the company. The stock rose \$2, or nearly 6 percent, to \$37.13. □

## Sprint Nextel shareholders approve Softbank deal

**OVERLAND PARK, Kansas (AP)** — Sprint Nextel Corp.'s

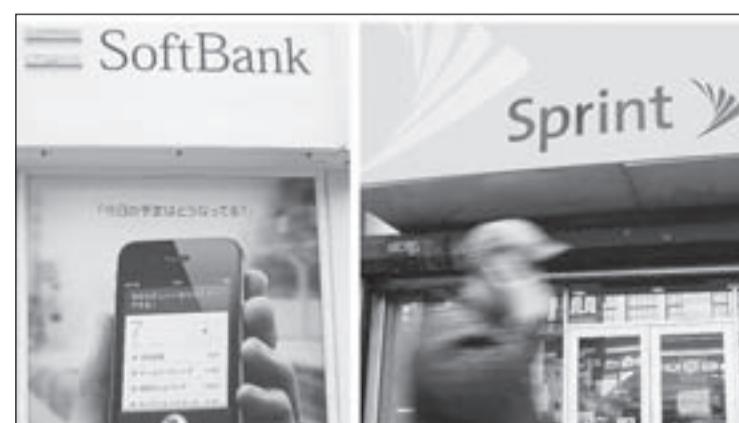
shareholders on Tuesday approved SoftBank Corp. of Japan's acquisition of the bulk of the wireless carrier company. Softbank had been competing with Dish Network Corp. since April to acquire Sprint.

Sprint opted for Softbank's \$21.6 billion offer for 78 percent of the company, versus Dish's \$25.5 billion bid for all of Sprint. CEO Dan Hesse said it was a historic day for the company and said the deal should enhance Sprint's long-term value and competitive position by creat-

ing a company with greater financial flexibility.

Softbank, based in Japan, is giving Sprint stockhold-

ers the choice of \$7.65 for each share they hold or one share of New Sprint common stock.



Combination photos show a SoftBank shop in Tokyo, and a man walking past a Sprint store in New York. Sprint Nextel Corp.'s shareholders on Tuesday approved SoftBank Corp. of Japan's acquisition of the bulk of the wireless carrier company.

(AP Photo)

Approximately 98 percent of the votes at Sprint's special shareholders meeting Tuesday were in favor of the deal, representing approximately 80 percent of Sprint's outstanding common stock.

The companies expect to complete the deal by early July.

Shares of Sprint, based in Overland Park, Kansas, increased 13 cents, or 2 percent, to \$7 in midday trading ahead of the broader market's gains.

Its stock value has increased more than 10 percent since April when the competing bids began. □

## Sorkin Column: Did Bernanke Tip Fed's Hand?

ANDREW SORKIN

© 2013 New York Times

Is Ben Bernanke being too chatty?

That's the question being put forward by some economists and others about Bernanke, the normally restrained Federal Reserve chairman, after his comments in May and last week about the economy and the central bank's plans for eventually backing off its stimulus measures.

Last week, his comments that the economic recovery was surpassing forecasts sent the market into a tailspin because Wall Street was worried that the Fed would start easing its bond-buying program and raise interest rates sooner than many had anticipated. That, in turn, could slow the economy, some worry. Since then, the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index has fallen nearly 5 percent.

Bernanke, hardly one to be described as verbose, said far more during his news conference on Wednesday than he usually does - and he went further about the Fed's policy plans than the committee itself had said earlier in its official statement. He went on to say that "a more prudent approach would be to wait for more tangible signs that the economy was strengthening and that inflation was on a path to return toward target before making such an announcement."

It wasn't that long ago that any Fed chairman hardly said a word. Until 1994, the Fed did not even regularly issue a statement disclosing a change in policy after its monthly meeting. Alan Greenspan made an art out of talking in circles so that investors couldn't divine his intentions.

Janet Yellen, the Fed's vice chairwoman and a possible successor to Bernanke, explained in a recent speech that for most of the last century, the Fed's communications policy was modeled on Montagu Norman, governor of the Bank of England, whose motto, she said, was, "Never explain, never excuse."

Ever since the financial crisis, with calls for more trans-

parency, Bernanke has taken a different tack, holding news conferences and providing specific details and timelines for the Fed's policies.

In some instances, it has worked magnificently. By laying out a timetable for the Fed's stimulus back in January 2012 - in which he explained the Fed's inflation and unemployment targets - he found a way to create a relative calm in the markets.

Questions about the communications strategy, however, were raised about whether he was oversharing. Would it become, as they might say on Twitter, TMI? (too much information.) The worry back then was that he would box himself into a specific timeline and that he would have a tricky time exiting his stimulus strategy.

Even before Bernanke spoke last week, he was being blamed for the recent market volatility. "The purpose of central-bank transparency was to give markets clarity and reduce volatility," Ed Yardeni, president and chief investment strategist at Yardeni Research, told Bloomberg News two days before the Bernanke news conference. Yellen, in her speech, which was given to the Society of American Business Editors and Writers, said that the Fed's move to be more transparent wasn't just for the sake of transparency. She said the Fed's utterances had become an important tool.

The first big communications moment for the Fed, she said, was in 2003 when the central bank was running out of options to spur growth because it had already cut the federal funds rate. So it decided to tell the market that it planned to keep rates low for a considerable period.

"The committee was using communication - mere words - as its primary monetary policy tool. Until then, it was probably common to think of communication about future policy as something that supplemented the setting of the federal funds rate. □

## Walgreen: 3Q profit jumps but misses estimates

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

Walgreen Co.'s fiscal third quarter earnings jumped 16 percent, but its shares plunged Tuesday as investors fretted over sluggish sales outside the drugstore chain's pharmacies and other troubling trends.

The Deerfield, Illinois, company missed Wall Street forecasts, and its earnings grew largely because of the comparison with last year's quarter, when a business split had hurt its performance. Several analysts said they were surprised by a weaker than expected expansion in this year's quarter of Walgreen's gross margin, which is a basic measure of profitability. That could indicate that the nation's largest drugstore operator is losing faster than expected a key boost it had been receiving from generic

drugs, said Edward Jones analyst Judson Clark.

An influx of generic medications has helped drugstore bottom lines for several quarters now because they come with a wider margin between the cost for the pharmacy to purchase the drugs and the reimbursement it receives. The generic wave was driven by the expiration of patents protecting top-sellers like the cholesterol fighter Lipitor. But that benefit is expected to wane because there are fewer significant patent expirations waiting to refuel it. That decreasing generic benefit plus a promotional push to boost sales in store front ends, or the area outside the pharmacy, could hurt Walgreen's profitability in future quarters, said Credit Suisse analyst Edward J. Kelly, who called the results released Tues-

day "fairly disappointing." "This quarter is not a great signal for the near-term," he wrote in an email.

Walgreen shares sank 6.2 percent, or \$2.99, to \$45.06 Tuesday afternoon, while broader trading indexes climbed slightly. But the stock price had already advanced 30 percent so far this year before Tuesday, and Clark said that gain is part of the reason shares fell so much after the company released earnings. "We think this is still a good business and an appropriate price," he said. Overall, Walgreen earned \$624 million, or 65 cents per share, in the quarter that ended in May. That's up from \$537 million, or 62 cents per share, a year ago, when the company had fewer shares outstanding.

Revenue rose about 3 percent to \$18.31 billion. □



This Friday, June 21, 2013 photo shows the script "Walgreens" over windows at the store in Wexford, Pa. Walgreen Co. reported quarterly financial results, Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

## Oil higher on goods data; pump price down

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil showed a small gain Tuesday, as positive U.S. economic news provided some support while traders wait for the latest supply reports.

In New York benchmark oil for August delivery rose 14 cents to end at \$95.32 a barrel.

A trio of economic reports boosted both oil and stocks. The government said U.S. businesses ordered more long-lasting manufactured goods, including a surge in com-

mercial aircraft orders. Readings on home prices and consumer confidence were also positive.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up more than 100 points in afternoon trading. Oil trading is often influenced by stock market trends which can reflect the state of confidence in the economic outlook.

Traders are awaiting the weekly report on oil and gasoline supplies due out Wednesday from the Energy Department. The nation's supply of crude oil is near a record level, while

gasoline supplies remain high because of tepid demand.

Drivers are seeing some relief in gas prices. The price of a gallon fell a penny to an average of \$3.55. It's dropped 8 cents in two weeks.

Brent crude, used to set prices for oil used by many U.S. refineries to make gasoline, rose 10 cents to end at \$101.26 a barrel.

In other energy futures trading on the Nymex, natural gas lost 9 cents to finish at \$3.65 per 1,000 cubic feet (28.32 cubic meters). □



## Dr. Ramey Column: Can parents learn from the Navy SEALs?

Dr. Gregory Ramey  
© 2013 Cox Newspapers

DAYTON, Ohio -- Mark Owen's book "No Easy Day" is more than a story about the Navy SEAL operation that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden. It is a testimony to the passion of a group of soldiers who placed country above all, including family, friends, and their own personal safety. I was most intrigued by the training that prepared these warriors for their life-threatening missions. "One of the key lessons learned early on in the SEAL's career was the ability to be comfortable being uncomfortable," remarked Owen, who was referring not only to the physical challenges but also to the mental pressures of their training.

The importance of getting accustomed to being uncomfortable goes against most every child rearing precept, with parents going to extraordinary lengths to raise children in a stress-free environment. Can the Navy SEALs teach us anything about effective ways to raise our children?

1. Kids learn a lot from experiencing stressful situations. When the SEALs were pushed to their physical and emotional limits, they realized that their potential exceeded their perceived boundaries. The fact that they were uncomfortable was never an excuse for giving up.

Parents seem preoccupied with making certain their children are never placed in a situation of physical or emotional discomfort. When a difficult situation arises, parents quickly get involved to make things better.

Try this. Let your fourth grader speak directly with her teacher about problems in school. Let your junior high student navigate the drama of peer interactions without you calling other parents. Coach your kids to push their limits and accept stress as a natural and sometimes healthy part of life.

2. Success comes from working hard, not wishing

for what you want. Navy SEAL training is all about hard work and sacrifice. Many youngsters are more concerned with what they want rather than the self-control and the difficult work it takes to accomplish their goals. Parents can be too nice, encouraging their kids' dreams rather than confronting them with the reality that wishing and wanting, after you leave the cocoon of your parent's home, accomplish nothing. 3. Failure is a learning experience. Navy SEALs do an extraordinary

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# The Energy Fair: Solar power to the people

**MICHAEL TORTORELLO**

© 2013 New York Times

Recently, some 20,000 people gathered at a vast field in Custer, Wis., to talk about wind power. No joke. Get this: Thousands of souls have been coming here every summer for 23 years to talk - really talk - about wind power.

This was the Energy Fair, a three-day convergence of homesteaders, hippies, ecotopians and more than a few end-times enthusiasts, staged by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. Beyond the lecture titled "MacGyver Windmills" (that is, devices fabricated from junk), a \$15 day pass gets you admission to 200 other workshops. Would you like to

learn about home algae cultivation and humane rabbit husbandry (for meat and wool)? How about advanced photovoltaic systems and do-it-yourself biodiesel?

The overarching theme is what marketers call "sustainable living," and these days it hardly qualifies as a kooky pursuit. Many of the fair's longtime commercial exhibitors, manufacturers of solar-energy technology or rainwater harvesting kits, could now find a home at the Home Depot.

This year's volunteers appear in the profiles below, along with pitches for the big idea they presented. Jason Edens explains how a simple solar-heating kit can free low-income folks

from what he calls "fuel poverty." Dominic Crea talks about building a big contemporary house that runs on just half a kilowatt-hour of solar power.

## CHEAP SOLAR ENERGY

Jason Edens started experimenting with a solar-powered furnace because he didn't have any money and he didn't want to be cold. He is happy to explain how "solar thermal" technology works. It's what he does as the founding director of the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance, which manufactures and installs solar energy systems across nine states.

First, here is what a solar-powered furnace isn't: the familiar shiny photovoltaic

panels that rest on the roof, generating electricity year-round. Instead, "essentially it is an aluminum-and-glass box," said Edens, 41. Inside one of these solar thermal systems "is what I like to call a sun sponge or the absorber, the part that inverts the irradiance of the sun into useful heat."

Hook the panel to a thermostat, a blower and some ductwork, and you can supply about a third of a home's total space-heating needs.

Still can't picture it? Try this: A solar-powered furnace is a slab of coated metal and a fan. The technology, which was patented way back in 1881, Edens said, operates when the sun shines.

But let's get back to that cold winter a dozen years ago in Pine River, Minn. Edens, then a graduate student in environmental policy, was so poor that he ran out of propane to heat his 1,250-square-foot home.

Like some 7 million American households, he said, he received a break from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, a \$3 billion-a-year (and shrinking) federal block grant. (This year, program data suggest, New York will shovel almost \$340 million into helping households pay heating and air-conditioning bills. While "fuel poverty" is persistent and pernicious, Edens said, "instead of applying a solution, we're just hemorrhaging money.") That was when he heard about a home changing hands in St. Paul that had a solar thermal system, he said - that is, a solar-powered furnace.

"They were discarding it, but it was fully functional," he said. "I drove down to St. Paul in a pickup truck and literally went dumpster diving. I installed it on my house. We saved so much money, I had a moment where I said, if we can save this money in Minnesota. . . ."

And now the fine print. An installed solar furnace system typically costs \$5,000

to \$7,000, before any renewable energy tax breaks and rebates. (These incentives often add up to about 50 percent of the total costs.) Still, with natural gas prices at frack-tastic lows, a solar-powered furnace remains a long game.

The panels, which measure 24 to 40 square feet, lie vertically against the south side of the house to capture rays from the low winter sun. (The system typically doesn't need to run at all in the summer; remember, it's not making electricity.) This positioning means that trees and other buildings in a city landscape will easily shade them out.

Taking these two factors together, Edens has devoted most of his organization's attention to open, rural areas, where many homes rely for heat on pricey propane and heating oil. (The average Northeastern household that heats with these delivered fuels spent more than \$2,300 last winter, according to Energy Department data. That new solar thermal system doesn't seem quite so dear by comparison.)

## LOW-WATTAGE LIVING

Here's a simple truth about electrical power: If you don't have it, you won't use it. Most Americans never grapple with this. Queue up "Revolution" on the 60-inch plasma, punch the remote, and cheap, abundant power flows out of the wall.

And then there's Dominic Crea, a 58-year-old part-time physics teacher who has begun to explore a practice he calls "milliwatt living" in the 3,000-square-foot "renewable energy home" he is finishing in Leonard, Mich.

"A typical home draws about 30 kilowatt-hours a day," Crea said, whereas a typical off-the-grid house may try to get by on 4 to 10 kilowatt-hours. Yet even for people devoted to sustainable living, he added, "the idea is always to find larger or greater amounts of power to sustain the kinds of living that people are accustomed to." □



An undated handout photo of Dominic Crea who explores "milliwatt living" in his 3,000-square-foot "renewable energy home." The Midwest Renewable Energy Association fair offers ideas for sustainable living, like how to mix your own house paint.

(Dominic Crea via The New York Times)

## Oil industry loses battle over ethanol

**Jennifer A. Dlouhy**

© 2012 Houston Chronicle

**WASHINGTON** - The Supreme Court dealt a big blow to the oil industry this week, deciding not to hear a legal challenge of the federal government's decision to approve the sale of fuel containing 15 percent ethanol.

The decision not to hear the case - which the high court issued without comment - was a defeat for the American Petroleum Institute and several other groups that have been fighting the Environmen-

tal Protection Agency's 2010 approval of the E15 blend. Although the agency green-lighted the sale of E15 for cars and trucks made since 2007, the higher-ethanol blend is not authorized for older vehicles. After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled in January that the American Petroleum Institute and more than a dozen other groups did not have standing to challenge the EPA's limited approval of E15, the institute and other parties appealed to the Supreme

Court. Harry Ng, the institute's vice president and general counsel, called the high court's move "a big loss for consumers, for safety and for our environment." The oil industry argues that E15 has not been proved safe, that "misfueling" could cause filling station owners to face liability when the fuel is inadvertently pumped into older cars and that the market for the mix is limited, especially since some automakers have warned drivers that using the fuel will void warranties. □

## People Briefs

**Chris Brown charged with hit-and-run**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Los Angeles city attorney's office has charged singer Chris Brown with misdemeanor hit-and-run and driving without a valid license.

City attorney spokesman Frank Mateljan says the charges filed Tuesday involve a minor accident on May 21 in the San Fernando Valley.

If convicted, Brown would face up to one year in jail. Arraignment is scheduled for July 15 at the Van Nuys courthouse, but an attorney can appear on Brown's behalf.

Mateljan says the county district attorney's office will be notified of the charges and it will be up to that office and the courts to determine if the case will have any effect on Brown's felony probation in the 2009 beating of singer Rihanna.

A call seeking comment from a Brown representative was not immediately returned Tuesday. □

**Broadway will dim marquees for Gandolfini**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Broadway theaters will dim their marquee lights Wednesday night in memory of James Gandolfini, "The Sopranos" star who earned a Tony Award nomination in 2009.

The Broadway League said Tuesday the lights will be dimmed for one minute at exactly 8 p.m. EDT (0000 GMT). The 51-year-old actor died Wednesday in Rome and a funeral will be held Thursday at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City.

Gandolfini received a Tony nomination for his role in the award-winning "God of Carnage." He also appeared on Broadway in "On the Waterfront" in 1995 and "A Streetcar Named Desire" in 1992. □

**Halle Berry testifies for anti-paparazzi bill**

**Associated Press**

**SACRAMENTO, California (AP)** — Academy Award-winner Halle Berry testified Tuesday for a California bill that would limit the ability of paparazzi to photo-

graph the children of celebrities and public figures. "My daughter doesn't want to go to school because she knows 'the men' are watching for her," the actor said. "They jump out

of the bushes and from behind cars and who knows where else, besieging these children just to get a photo."

The bill would change the definition of harassment to

include photographing or recording a child without the permission of a legal guardian by following the child or guardian's activities or by lying in wait.

It also increases the penalties for people convicted of such behavior. Anyone convicted of a first offense could spend between 10 days and a year in jail.

But journalism advocates fear the bill will interfere with reporters and photographers gathering news. In an age when everyone with a cellphone has a camera, some say it also potentially puts private citizens at risk of prosecution.

"It sweeps legitimate news-gathering activities into the new definition of harassment and exposes everyday activities that journalists do to criminal and civil liability," said Jim Ewert of the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

The bill is supported by many Southern California law enforcement organizations. □



Actress Halle Berry testifies before the Assembly Committee on Public Safety for a bill that would limit the ability of paparazzi to photograph children of celebrities and public figures, on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif.

(AP Photo/Steve Yeater)

**Diddy attempts to bring music back to TV**

**MESFIN FEKADU**

**AP Music Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Diddy had been working on developing a TV network for years. When he was almost shut out of performing on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" around the release of a 2010 album, the rapper-producer realized he needed to launch the network sooner rather than later.

"I had to beg to be on ... 'Dancing With the Stars' and it was something to me that wasn't right about that," he said.

Diddy believed there weren't enough outlets for musicians on TV — and that moment drove home the point.

He's launching Revolt TV in the fall.

"There's ESPN for sports, CNN, Fox News for news and the AP. There should be a brand for music, and now we have that brand that's going to focus on

music and not reality shows," he said. "There's been a gaping hole once some of the other channels stopped having focus on music and focused more on reality, and it left a gaping hole for artists and fans of not having a place to go."

The 43-year-old entrepreneur announced last week that Revolt TV had reached a deal to have his network distributed on Time Warner Cable. Comcast Corp. announced a deal with Diddy's network last year.

Sean "Diddy" Combs has produced shows like "Making the Band" for MTV, and he's hoping to bring the flavor of what's buzzing on the Internet — viral videos, behind-the-scene music moments and raw interviews — to TV sets. He's "embracing" what's happening online and plans to tap into that audience.

"We want to have partnerships with YouTube and



Sean "Diddy" Combs at the National Action Network's 3rd Annual Triumph Awards in New York. Diddy announced last week that he reached a deal with Time Warner Cable to launch a music network called Revolt TV this fall.

(Photo by Charles Sykes/AP)

we want to have partnerships with Facebook and Instagram and Spotify and Beats (by Dre)," he said. "We're all in this together." MTV, which has shifted to reality TV, occasionally plays music videos, and there are channels like MTV

Hits and VH1 Soul that show videos throughout the day. Diddy said Revolt TV will proudly play music videos, but "this is not an MTV 2 (or) 3.0." "I wanted my MTV and so when I missed it, I didn't want to complain about it, □

# Is Paula Deen toast? If so, liberally apply butter

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Will Paula Deen go the way of Michael Richards or Charlie Sheen?

One unleashed a bigoted tirade and is no longer a lovable, easily employable clown. The other carved a brand out of crazy — reported hotel N-word rant and all — but is back on TV earning millions.

Her Food Network shows gone, her endorsements crumbling, is Paula Deen — in a word — toast?

A week after Deen's admission of using racial slurs in the past surfaced in a discrimination lawsuit, pop culture watchers, experts in managing public relations nightmares and civil rights stalwarts who have tried to help other celebrities in her position see a long, bumpy road ahead.

They also see a week full of missteps and believe the queen of comfort food reacted too slowly to her latest controversy at a time when hours count. They say it could take years, if she can make it back at all to the earning power she has enjoyed.

"Paula Deen has, I would say, taken an irreparable hit because she had this appearance of being more or less a nice older woman who cooks food that's bad for you. That in her own way sort of made her lovable," said Janice Min, editorial director of The Hollywood Reporter in Los Angeles.

"But this presents a whole

other picture of, 'Wow, maybe she's just an old racist white southern woman.' That image is hard to shake off for a large chunk of people," Min added.

racially charged cases. His current clients include the family of black teen Trayvon Martin, whose shooter, George Zimmerman, is on trial for second-degree

said. "One of the first rules of crisis is to apologize thoroughly and completely and immediately. She didn't follow Crisis 101."

Deen, 66, and her brother, Bubba Hiers, are being sued by Lisa Jackson, a former manager of the restaurant they own in Savannah, Ga. Jackson accused them last year of sexual harassment and a hostile environment of innuendo and racial slurs.

According to a transcript of Deen's deposition, an attorney for Jackson asked Deen if she has ever used the N-word.

"Yes, of course," Deen replied, though she added: "It's been a very long time." And she said she doesn't use the word anymore.

She bailed on the "Today" show on Friday, instead posting a series of criticized YouTube apologies. She was dropped by the Food Network the same day. An apology, at this point, isn't enough, said Dara Busch, executive vice president and managing director of Rubenstein Associates in New York, a top PR company.

"It will take years for her to fix how she will be viewed by the African American community. She has to find ways to prove that she's not that way any longer," said Busch.

Howard Rubenstein, who founded Busch's firm and is known as a damage control guru, helped facilitate Richards' apologies to the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jes-

se Jackson after the comedian was caught on video using the N-word and making a lynching reference on stage against a black heckler. Rubenstein declined an interview.

Kopp said Richards apologized over and over on TV and elsewhere, yet his career has never been the same.

"You know, this sort of thing hasn't been a career-ender for that many people," Min said. "But she's reliant on television, pretty much mainstream wholesome television, to prop up her brand. If you're not on the Food Network, you just don't have too many other places to go."

Smithfield Foods, where she had her own line of hams, also dropped her this week as a pitchwoman.

Min, Kopp, Busch and others say Deen has been her own worst PR enemy in the fallout from her race-fueled deposition, which also included her seeing the "beauty" in a Southern-style wedding she once considered for her brother, complete with formally dressed black waiters.

That and her oddly spliced video apology, later swapped out for an unedited one after she bailed on Matt Lauer and the "Today" show, "made her seem shifty, sort of erratic and strange," Min said. "She had already dug herself in by waiting three or four days before talking at all and what she finally did say dug her in a little deeper." □



**Celebrity chef Paula Deen poses for a portrait in New York. A week after Deen's admission of using racial slurs in the past surfaced in a discrimination lawsuit, pop culture watchers, experts in managing public relations nightmares and civil rights stalwarts who have tried to help other celebrities in her position see a long, bumpy road ahead.**

**(AP Photo/Carlo Allegri)**

So far, what could go wrong pretty much has, said Larry Kopp, president of The TASC Group, a communications firm for sports figures and celebrities with experience in high-profile,

murder. In celebrity terms, where do Deen's troubles land her in the crowded hierarchy of misbehavior?

"I think it's right up there with Mel Gibson," Kopp

## Grisham's 'A Time To Kill' heading to Broadway

**NEW YORK (AP)** — John Grisham's first novel, which was made into a star-filled film, is now heading to a Broadway stage.

Producers said Tuesday that an adaptation of "A Time to Kill" will begin performances at the John Golden Theatre this fall. An earlier version was staged at Washington's Arena Stage in 2011.

"A Time to Kill" was Grisham's first novel and it was made into a 1996 movie starring Matthew McCon-

aughey, Sandra Bullock and Samuel L. Jackson. It's a courtroom thriller set in Mississippi that centers on a white lawyer defending a black father who has killed the man who raped his young daughter.

The task of boiling down the book's 600-plus pages to two acts was handed to Tony Award-winning playwright Rupert Holmes, who wrote "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" and "Curtains." No cast was announced. In Washington, Broadway

actor Sebastian Arcelus, who has appeared mostly in musicals, played the defense attorney that McConaughey portrayed in the film. Ethan McSweeney, who directed "Gore Vidal's The Best Man," will once again direct, as he did at Arena Stage.

This is the first theatrical adaptation of a Grisham novel after a series of hit movies made from his legal thrillers, including "The Pelican Brief," "The Firm" and others. □



**Author John Grisham speaks during the opening of the premier of the stage adaptation of "A Time To Kill" at Arena Stage theater in Washington. The stage adaptation of the novel is now heading to Broadway.**

**(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)**

## The Great Disconnect



ROSS DOUTHAT

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This January, as President Barack Obama began his second term, the Pew Research Center asked Americans to list their policy priorities for 2013. Huge majorities cited jobs and the economy; sizable majorities cited health care costs and entitlement reform; more modest majorities cited fighting poverty and reforming the tax code. Down at the bottom of the list, with less than 40 percent support in each case, were gun control, immigration and climate change.

Yet six months later, the public's non-priorities look like the entirety of the White House's second-term agenda. The president's failed push for background checks has given way to an ongoing push for immigration reform, and the administration is reportedly planning a sweeping regulatory push on carbon emissions this summer. Meanwhile, nobody expects much action on the issues that Americans actually wanted Washington to focus on: Tax and entitlement reform have been back-burnered, and the plight of the unemployed seems to have dropped off the D.C. radar screen entirely.

In part, this disconnect between country and capital reflects the limits gridlock puts on governance. The ideological divides in Washington - between right and left, and between different factions within the House Republican caucus - make action on first-rank issues unusually difficult, so it's natural that politicians would look for compromises on lower-priority debates instead.

That's the generous way of looking at it, at least. The more cynical take is that D.C. gridlock has given the political class an excuse to ignore the country's most pressing problem - a lack of decent jobs at decent wages, with a deeper social crisis at work underneath - and pursue its own pet causes instead.

After all, gun control, immigration reform and climate change aren't just random targets of opportunity. They're pillars of Acela Corridor ideology, core elements of Bloombergism, places where Obama-era liberalism overlaps with the views of Davos-goers and the Wall Street 1 percent. If you move in those circles, the political circumstances don't necessarily matter; these ideas always look like uncontroversial common sense.

Step outside those circles, though, and the timing of their elevation looks at best peculiar,

at worst perverse. The president decided to make gun control legislation a major second-term priority ... with firearm homicides at a 30-year low. Congress is pursuing a sharp increase in low-skilled immigration ... when the foreign-born share of the American population is already headed for historical highs. The administration is drawing up major new carbon regulations ... when actual existing global warming has been well below projections for 15 years and counting.

What's more, on the issues that Americans actually prioritize - jobs, wages, the economy - it's likely that both immigration reform and whatever the White House decides to do on greenhouse gases will make the short-term picture somewhat worse. The Congressional Budget Office's recent analysis of the immigration bill errs on the side of optimism, but it still projects that the legislation would leave unemployment "slightly elevated" through 2020, and average wages modestly reduced. Given that similar estimates greeted the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill in 2009, it's reasonable to assume that carbon regulations would slightly raise the unemployment rate as well.

These costs might be more acceptable in a world where Washington was also readying, say, payroll tax relief for working-class families, or measures to help the long-term uninsured. But since those ideas currently lack constituencies in the capital, we're left with the peculiar spectacle of a political class responding to a period of destructive long-term unemployment with an agenda that threatens to help extend that crisis toward 2020 and beyond.

This disconnect is the most serious threat to the current liberal ascendancy. Obama has a good chance to be remembered as "the liberal Reagan," but the Reagan recovery was far better for most Americans than this one has been, and right now the president's mediocre job approval numbers contrast sharply with the highs of Reagan's second term.

In this sense, for all the (justifiable) talk about conservatism's dysfunction, Republicans have more freedom of movement today than Democrats did after their 1984 defeat. As Yuval Levin wrote in *The Weekly Standard* in April, there has been no "morning in America"-style indication for this administration; instead, "both parties give the impression of having outlived their eras," and "the moment feels more like the late 1970s than the late 1980s." The country clearly prefers Obama to the available alternatives, but it might prefer another alternative still.

So far, though, Republicans have mostly used liberalism's relative weakness as an excuse for not moving much at all, and sticking with an agenda that's even more disconnected from the anxieties of the average voter than the White House's second-term priorities. □



## The Powerful NCAA Under Fire



JOE NOCERA

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In 1951, a man named Walter Byers became the first-ever executive director of the NCAA, an organization that at the time was both toothless and penniless. That year, the NCAA had been forced to abandon its short-lived "Sanity Code," an effort to rein in excesses in college athletics. Byers, who had been an assistant at the Big Ten Conference, was given a room at the Big Ten for his office. He had one employee: his assistant. He was 29 years old. Over the next 37 years, Byers built the NCAA into the powerful, wealthy monolith it is today. He is the man who coined the phrase "student-athlete" to deflect attempts to force universities to pay workers' compensation.

He fought efforts to tax college sports. (Today, buying a "seat license" is viewed by the IRS as a tax-deductible donation.) He negotiated the first million-dollar television contract and imposed the first "death penalty" - a one-year ban on Kentucky's basketball team in 1952 after several players were involved in a point-shaving scandal.

But toward the end of his tenure, Byers turned against his creation. For most of his career, he later wrote, "I supported any rule that sought to keep college athletics

more a student activity than a profession." By the 1980s, though, he could see that the battle was lost: College sports was becoming big business.

So he began to say out loud that the rules needed to change: that, at a minimum, players should be allowed to endorse products and get additional financial assistance. The first person to compare big-time college sports to the plantation was not Taylor Branch in his groundbreaking 2011 article in *The Atlantic*. It was Walter Byers. The NCAA responded by ushering Byers out the door, leading him to conclude that the only two forces that could impose real change on the organization were: congressional action or litigation.

On Thursday in San Francisco, Michael Hausfeld, a plaintiff's attorney from Washington, stood before a federal judge and argued that the NCAA violates the nation's antitrust laws. Hausfeld is the lawyer who has brought the O'Bannon case, so named for the lead plaintiff, Ed O'Bannon, a former UCLA basketball star who sued the NCAA for licensing his likeness to the video game maker EA Sports without compensating him. Dozens of other former college athletes have since joined the suit.

If they get certified as a class - and that is what Thursday's arguments were about - there would be potentially tens of thousands of plaintiffs. (Disclosure: William Isaacson, a lawyer at Boies, Schiller & Flexner, is aiding Hausfeld. My wife, who is the firm's director of communications, has no role in the case.)

Not since the 1980s has the NCAA faced such a legal threat to - let's call it what it is - its "business model." That is the model that generates billions of dollars, which is divvied up among coaches, athletic directors, conference commissioners - everyone except the "amateurs" who play the games. This has become increasingly untenable. Over the last few years, the NCAA has found itself in turmoil, with many of the big-time schools questioning whether they even need it anymore. It's not that they are yearning to pay the players, but the hypocrisy of the current situation has become so flagrant that the center is no longer holding. And the NCAA's efforts to defend its amateurism model have taken on a feeling of desperation.

For instance, the NCAA's legal arguments in the O'Bannon case are almost laughably weak. It argues that if the players were paid, then college sports would lose its appeal. Says who? It claims that college athletes must continue to be amateurs because, well, that's the way it's always been. It even argues that if O'Bannon wins, schools like Michigan, with its 110,000-seat football stadium, would downgrade its athletic status to that of, say, Amherst. I'm told that there were times Thursday when people were openly chortling at some of the NCAA's oral arguments.

The last time the NCAA faced a major class-action lawsuit, it simply paid a large sum of money to make it go away. That's classic NCAA behavior. Both Hausfeld and O'Bannon insist that won't happen this time: O'Bannon was quoted in *The Times* on Wednesday saying that he wasn't in it for the money: "I want systemic change. That's what we're here for."

In the next month, the judge will make a decision about whether the lawsuit should go forward. There are no guarantees, of course, but if O'Bannon wins, and players have to be compensated for use of their likeness, it will be the first small step toward giving the players a share, at long last, of the riches their work produces. It won't, however, be the last such step. Whether through O'Bannon or some other means, the day is coming when the players will be paid. The only question is when. □

# What did Narcissus say to Instagram? Selfie time!

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In these hyper-connected, over-shared times dwell two kinds of people: those pre-occupied with taking and uploading photos of themselves and those who have never heard of the selfie. The raunchy, goofy, poignant, sexy or drunken self-portrait has been a common sight since phone camera met social media. Now, nearly a decade since the arm-extended or in-the-mirror photos became a mainstay of

nese astronaut Aki Hoshida earned a spot in the Selfie Hall of Fame with a striking, other-worldly shot, arms extended as reflected in his helmet outside the International Space Station last year.

"It just comes so naturally after a point," said Elizabeth Zamora, a 24-year-old marketing account coordinator in Dallas who has taken hundreds of selfies since she got her first iPhone two years ago, with the front-facing camera that has become the selfie gold standard.

The practice of freezing and sharing our thinnest slices of life has become so popular that the granddaddy of dictionaries, the Oxford, is monitoring the term selfie as a possible addition. Time magazine included the selfie in its Top 10 buzzwords of 2012 (at No. 9) and New York magazine's The Cut blog declared in April: "Ugly Is the New Pretty: How Unattractive Selfies Took Over the Internet."

On Instagram alone, there's #selfiesunday, along with related tags where millions

crying out: Look at me!" But Pamela Rutledge doesn't see it that way. The director of the non-profit Media Psychology Research Center, which explores how humans interact with technology, sees the selfie as democratizing the once-snooty practice of self-portraiture, a tradition that long predates Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

She sees some key differences between selfies and self-portraits of yore. Unlike painted portraiture, selfies are easily deletable. And

mous and in control of our own images and storylines. As for the young, the more authority figures — parents, teachers — dislike them and "declare them a sign of a self-obsessed, narcissistic generation, the more desirable they become," she said.

The word selfie in itself carries multiple connotations, Rutledge observes. "The 'ie' at the end makes selfie a diminutive, implying some affection and familiarity." From a semantic's perspective, the selfie is a "little' self" — a small, friendly bit of the self, she said.

There's a sense of immediacy and temporariness. "Granted, little is really temporary on the Internet, but it is more than that by definition. Transient, soon to be upstaged by the next one," Rutledge said.

Self-portraits tagged as 'selfie' first surfaced on Flickr, a photo-sharing site, and on MySpace in 2004, Rutledge said. The earliest reference in UrbanDictionary was to "selfy" in 2005. In historical terms, elites in Ancient Egypt were fond of self-portraits, Rutledge said. And then there was the mirror, invented in the 15th century and allowing artists like the prolific Durer in Germany to have at it in more meaningful detail.

While the self-involved Narcissus stared at his reflection in a pond in Greek mythology, it was the mirror that "really was the first piece of technology where an artist could see his own image long enough to paint it, other than just painting self-impressions," Rutledge said. Fast forward to the 1860s and the advent of cameras, launching a new round of selfies, though they took considerable skill and expense.

Leap with us once again to 2010 and the launch of Instagram, and on to 2012, when 86 percent of the U.S. population had a cell phone, bringing on the cheaper selfie as social media and mobile Internet access spread. "What's most interesting to me is how we're trying to grapple with what it means," Rutledge said. □



This combo image of six undated images shows self-portraits taken by Nikki Anderson, 19, of Massachusetts. The practice of freezing and sharing our thinnest slices of life in "selfies" has become so popular that the granddaddy of dictionaries, the Oxford, is monitoring the term as a possible addition.

(AP Photo/Nikki Anderson)

MySpace — duck face or otherwise — selfies are a pastime across generations and cultures.

Justin Bieber puts up plenty with his shirt off and Rihanna poses for sultry snaps, but a beaming Hillary Clinton recently took a turn with daughter Chelsea, who tweeted their happy first attempt with the hashtag #ProudDaughter.

Two other famous daughters, Sasha and Malia Obama, selfied at dad's second inauguration, pulling faces in front of a smartphone. And Japa-

"You just take it and you don't even realize it and then you're sharing it with all your friends," she said. "I try not to go crazy."

If we're not taking them, we're certainly looking, regardless of whether we know what they're called. We're lurking on the selfies of our teens, enjoying the hijinx of co-workers and friends and mooning over celebrities, who have fast learned the marketing value — and scandalous dangers — of capturing their more intimate, unpolished selves.

of selfies land daily. More than 23 million photos have been uploaded to the app with the tag #selfie and about 70 million photos clog Instagram's #me.

What are we to make of all this navel-gazing (sometimes literally)? Are selfies, by definition, culturally dangerous? Offensive? An indicator of moral decline? Beverly Hills, Calif., psychiatrist Carole Lieberman sees narcissism with a capital N. "The rise of the selfie is a perfect metaphor for our increasingly narcissistic culture. We're desperately

"bad or funny is good in a way that wasn't the case when people had to pay for film to be developed," or for a professional painter, she said.

"Albrecht Durer's self-portraiture is these incredible self-reflections and explorations of technique, and then when Rihanna snaps her picture it's just self-aggrandizement, or it's promotion, so you have a fairly interesting double standard based upon who's taking the self-portrait," said Rutledge, in Boston.

In selfies, we can be fa-

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## Putin rules out extradition for Snowden in airport

Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and Finland's President Sauli Niinisto speak to the media following a meeting at the presidential summer residence Kultaranta in Naantali, Finland, Tuesday June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Lehtikuva, Kimmo Mantyla)

**D M. HERSENHORN**

**PETER BAKER**

**RICK GLADSTONE**

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MOSCOW - President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia confirmed directly for the first time on Tuesday that Edward J. Snowden, the fugitive former U.S. national security contractor, was staying temporarily in an international transit area at a Moscow airport, and Putin appeared to rule out U.S. requests for his extradition to the United States.

Speaking at a news conference while on an official visit to Finland, Putin of-

fered no new information on where Snowden might be headed from the transit area of Sheremetyevo Airport in Moscow, where he has been ensconced, out of public view, for the past two days. But he said Snowden had broken no Russian laws.

"Mr. Snowden is a free man," Putin said, "and the sooner he chooses his final destination, the better it will be both for us and for him." Putin also said that Snowden's arrival "was a complete surprise for us" and that as a transit passenger, "he doesn't need a

visa or other documents. As a transit passenger, he has a right to buy a ticket and fly wherever he wants."

He sought to refute suggestions that Russian security officials might be talking to Snowden, who is believed to be carrying a trove of U.S. intelligence data on laptop computers and thumb drives. Putin said they "have never worked with Mr. Snowden and are not working with him now." The remarks by Putin were the most definitive and extensive from the Russian government on Snowden, whose successful effort, so

far, to elude his U.S. pursuers has captivated global attention, showed the limits of U.S. power and strained U.S. relations with both Russia and China. Snowden flew to Moscow on Sunday from Hong Kong despite a U.S. request that the authorities there arrest him.

Putin said U.S. accusations that Russia was abetting a fugitive "are just a nightmare and nonsense," and he appeared to end any possibility that Russia would extradite Snowden.

"We can extradite foreign nationals only to those countries with which we

have relevant international agreements on the extradition of criminals," Putin said. "We have no such agreement with the United States."

While in Russian territory, Putin said, "Mr. Snowden, thank God, has not committed any crimes."

Putin spoke hours after the Russian foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, chastised the United States for its demands regarding Snowden, who has been charged with violating U.S. espionage laws.

**Continued on Page 3**

## Obama outlines plan to cut greenhouse gases

MARK LANDLER

JOHN M. BRODER

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**WASHINGTON** - President Barack Obama, declaring that "Americans across the country are already paying the price of inaction" on climate change, on Tuesday announced sweeping measures to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and prepare the nation for a future of damaging weather aggravated by rising temperatures.

Embracing an issue that could define his legacy but

mate.

Saying science had put to rest the debate over whether human activity was warming the Earth, Obama said, "The question now is whether we will have the courage to act before it is too late."

"As a president, as a father and as an American, I am here to say, we need to act," he said to students and others gathered in a sunbaked quadrangle at Georgetown University. "I refuse to condemn your generation and future gen-

eration of a 1,200-mile pipeline from oil sands formations in Alberta to refineries in the Midwest and the Gulf Coast. Obama, who has been under heavy political pressure from opponents and supporters of the \$7 billion project, said the pipeline should be built only if it did not have a major effect on the climate. "And our national interest will be served only if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution," Obama said in a

proposal, saying they constituted a government overreach that would constrict energy production and strangle the nation's economic recovery.

"These policies, rejected even by the last Democratic-controlled Congress, will shutter power plants, destroy good-paying American jobs and raise electricity bills for families that can scarcely afford it," Speaker John A. Boehner said in a statement released before Obama spoke.

It also fulfilled, belatedly, a



President Barack Obama wipes away sweat as he speaks about climate change at Georgetown University in Washington, June 25, 2013. Obama proposed a sweeping plan to address climate change on Tuesday, setting ambitious goals and timetables for a series of executive actions to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and prepare the nation for the ravages of a warming planet.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

also ignite new battles with Republicans, Obama said he would use his executive powers to require reductions in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the nation's power plants.

That was the centerpiece of a three-part plan that includes new federal spending to advance renewable energy technology, as well as spending to protect cities and states from the ravages of storms and droughts that are exacerbated by a changing cli-

erations to a planet that is beyond saving."

For Obama, it was a bold attempt to stake out an achievement that could define his legacy as president. But unlike with the health care overhaul, he is being forced to rely on executive authorities, since passing legislation to address climate policy would be a near impossibility in a deeply divided Congress. He briefly addressed the pending decision on whether to allow the con-

statement that cheered pipeline opponents. "The net effects of the pipeline's impact on our climate will be absolutely critical to determining whether this project is allowed to go forward." He did not lay out the criteria for measuring the project's effect on the climate or say how big an impact he was willing to accept. Those decisions are still months away, White House officials said.

Republicans were quick to condemn the president's

promise Obama made as a presidential candidate in 2008 to tackle the threat of a warming climate. During his first term, climate change took a back seat to more pressing problems, including the financial crisis and the collapse of the auto industry, and then to his decision to make the health care overhaul his first big legislative initiative. White House aides said the timing for Obama's speech had been set weeks ago. □

## Canada confident Keystone XL plan will be approved

ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** — Canada's natural resources minister said Tuesday he's confident the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline project from Canada to Texas will be approved because it meets President Barack Obama's requirement that it not lead to a significant increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

Joe Oliver responded to Obama's comments earlier Tuesday that the pipeline should be approved only if it does "not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution."

Oliver pointed to "Obama's very own State Department" which he said concluded in a report this year "that there would be no increase in greenhouse gas emissions."

The long-delayed project carrying oil from Alberta's oil sands requires approval from the State Department because the project crosses the border. Republicans, and business and labor groups, have urged the Obama administration to approve the pipeline as a source of jobs and a step toward North American energy independence.

But environmental groups have been pressuring Obama to reject the pipeline, saying it would carry "dirty oil" that contributes to global warming. They also worry about a spill.

Canada has said the project would be a welcome economic boost, and Alberta's premier has warned that its rejection would mar relations with the U.S. The northern Alberta region has the world's third largest oil reserves, with 170 billion barrels of proven reserves. A State Department report on the pipeline this year acknowledged that development of the oil sands in Alberta would create greenhouse gases, but it also made clear that other methods to transport the oil — including rail, trucks and barges — also pose a risk to the environment. □

# Kerry talks to Saudis about Syria, Mideast peace

DEB RIECHMANN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON/JIDDAH,** Saudi Arabia (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Saudi Arabia stood firmly Tuesday against Syrian President Bashar Assad, condemning him for bolstering his forces with foreign fighters and insisting that a stalled international conference be convened

to craft a political solution to end the bloody civil war. "We believe that the best solution is a political solution," Kerry said. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, a key ally of the United States and foe of Iran, says Assad's addition of Hezbollah and Iranian fighters to the battlefield is a critical turn of events that cannot

be ignored. He says Syria is now an occupied land — a development that requires speedy action by the international community. "Syria is facing two things — unprecedented genocide and a foreign invasion," al-Faisal said. Kerry, on a trip through the Mideast and Asia, says the U.S. remains convinced that an international con-

ference offers the best chance to bring about a political solution.

"We do not want this to be a wider war," Kerry said. "We will continue to provide assistance to the Syrian military coalition and to the Syrian opposition in the interim. Because we do not believe it is appropriate for the Assad regime to have invited the Iranians and Hezbollah to cross international lines and to have their fighters on the ground. There are no United States fighters. There are no Saudi fighters. There are no Qatari fighters on the ground." Nevertheless, regional powers like Saudi Arabia, and soon the United States, are sending lethal aid to the rebels. The United States also has 1,000 troops in Jordan providing training.

On Egypt, Kerry said the U.S. has made many recommendations to help the country create a way for the opposition to be part of the political process in order to create some eco-

nomic reforms that would help attract business and capital.

"This demonstration is spontaneous. It comes from the Egyptian people. We hope it will bring the government ultimately to the place where the reforms are affected and choices that need to be made about the economy are implemented," he said. "We would obviously hope that it will not produce violence — that is would be a moment catalyzing positive change for Egypt itself."

The political situation in Egypt is deteriorating. Kerry's remarks come after Egyptian Defense Minister Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi gave the nation's Islamist rulers and their opponents a week to reach an understanding before planned June 30 opposition protests demanding resignation of President Mohammed Morsi. El-Sissi issued a toughly worded warning that the military will intervene to stop the nation from entering a "dark tunnel." □



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says goodbye to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal outside of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where they held a news conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday, June 25, 2013. Kerry is in Jeddah for a day visit before continuing on to Kuwait, returning to his Middle East tour after a stop in India.

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

# Putin rules out extradition for Snowden in airport

Continued from front

He and his allies describe him as a whistle-blower whose revelations have exposed what they called the U.S. government's invasion of privacy around the world.

Lavrov said Snowden had not crossed the Russian border, which appeared at first to be a denial that he was in Russia.

But it also was a technical way of saying Snowden was in the international passenger transit area, a restricted zone where foreign travelers do not get their passports stamped and do not pass through immigration checkpoints as they await flight connections to other countries. U.S. officials, including Secretary of State John Kerry, lashed out with unusual force Monday against China for allowing Snowden to leave Hong Kong, against Russia for permitting him safe transit and against

Ecuador for declaring that it is actively considering Snowden's request for political asylum. The Americans have demanded that he be seized and repatriated.

"He didn't cross the Russian border, and we consider the attempts we are seeing to accuse the Russian side of violating United States law as completely ungrounded and unacceptable, or nearly a conspiracy accompanied by threats against us," Lavrov said, speaking to reporters here after a meeting with the Algerian foreign minister.

He added, "There are no legal grounds for this kind of behavior from American officials toward us."

Later in the day Kerry, speaking to reporters while visiting Saudi Arabia, sought to tone down the angry exchange of words with his Russian counterpart, with whom he has sought to cultivate a good relationship.

"We are not looking for a confrontation," Kerry said. The comments by Putin and Lavrov were the first by top Russian officials about Snowden since Snowden's reported arrival at Sherem-

the aircraft left without him. Ecuador confirmed that it had received an asylum request and had provided documents allowing Snowden to travel there. Snowden's U.S. passport



Russian President Vladimir Putin arrives at Turku airport in Finland, Tuesday June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Lehtikuva, Antti Aimo-Koivisto)

etyevo Airport in Moscow on Sunday.

Employees of Aeroflot, the Russian airline, said Snowden had been booked on an afternoon flight Monday to Havana, but he did not board and

their records on Internet freedom.

Lavrov said on Tuesday, "We have no connection with Mr. Snowden, nor with his relation toward the American justice system, nor with his movement around the world. He chose his own route and we, like most of those here, found out about this from the press."

The anti-secrecy organization, WikiLeaks, which says it has helped Snowden evade the U.S. authorities, has said that he is safe and healthy but has declined to pinpoint his whereabouts. The White House has said it believes that Snowden is still in Moscow.

U.S. intelligence officials remained deeply concerned that Snowden could make public more documents disclosing details of the National Security Agency's collection system or that his documents could be obtained by foreign intelligence services, with or without his cooperation. □

# Supreme Court weakens voting discrimination law

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A deeply divided U.S. Supreme Court threw out the most powerful part of the landmark law that forced open voting booths for minorities decades ago in the face of sometimes violent opposition in mostly Southern states, noting that the times have changed. President Barack Obama, the country's first black chief executive, said he was "deeply disappointed" with the decision.

Split along ideological and partisan lines, the justices voted 5-4 Tuesday to halt enforcement of the requirement in the Voting Rights Act that all or parts of 15 states with a history of discrimination in voting get Washington's approval before changing the way

they hold elections. The Voting Rights Act was an emergency federal measure in 1965 — a turbulent time when it was not unusual for blacks to essentially be barred from voting in some parts of the country, and some civil rights activists on the issue were killed. The act was just one instance of the federal government stepping in during that era to make local governments obey the law and ensure equal rights for all.

Tuesday's ruling, led by Chief Justice John Roberts writing for a conservative majority, was the most dramatic decision so far as the high court re-examines the necessity of laws and programs aimed at giving racial minorities access



**Stephanie Rigizadeh, of CBS, runs to convey the Supreme Court's ruling on the Voting Rights Act outside the Supreme Court in Washington, June 25, 2013. The Supreme Court struck down a central portion of the Voting Rights Act on Tuesday, holding that Section 4 of the law, originally passed in 1965 and since updated by Congress, was unconstitutional.**

**(Drew Angerer/The New York Times)**

to areas from which they once were systematically excluded.

The U.S. racial landscape is rapidly changing. Census estimates look ahead to whites becoming a minority in coming decades. Rights groups and the court's dissenting liberal justices warned that discrimination still exists.

"The Supreme Court has effectively gutted one of the nation's most important and effective civil rights laws. Minority voters in places with a record of discrimination are now at greater risk of being disenfranchised than they have been in decades," said Jon Greenbaum, chief counsel for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Obama, reelected last year with the strong support of black and Hispanic voters, called on Congress to reinvigorate the voting rights law.

"While today's decision is a setback, it doesn't represent the end of our efforts to end voting discrimination," the president said. "I am calling on Congress to pass legislation to ensure every American has equal access to the polls."

The requirement for federal approval for proposed election changes was put into the law to give fed-

eral officials a potent tool to defeat persistent efforts to keep blacks from voting. But coverage also has been triggered by past discrimination against American Indians, Asian-Americans, Alaska Natives and Hispanics.

The requirement currently applies to the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. It also covers certain counties in California, Florida, New York, North Carolina and South Dakota, and some local jurisdictions in Michigan.

Tuesday's ruling came in a challenge brought by Shelby County, Alabama, a suburb of Birmingham — one of the Southern cities where the civil rights struggle played out in the 1960s. The lawsuit acknowledged that the measure had been appropriate and necessary to counteract decades of state-sponsored discrimination in voting, but it asked whether there was any end in sight for a provision that intrudes on states' rights to conduct elections.

Officials from the South had mixed reactions Tuesday.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, the only black lawmaker in Mississippi's congressional delegation. □

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## GOP in House leaves immigration bill in doubt



House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), center, walks to his office on Capitol Hill in Washington, June 25, 2013. With the Senate days away from passing the most significant immigration legisla-

tion in a generation, House Republicans say they feel no pressure to act quickly on a similar measure, leaving the fate of the bill very much in doubt despite solid bipartisan Senate support. (Drew Angerer/The New York Times)

JONATHAN WEISMAN

© 2013 New York Times

WASHINGTON - With the Senate days away from passing the most significant immigration legislation in a generation, House Republicans say they feel no pressure to act quickly on a similar measure, leaving the fate of the bill very much in doubt despite solid bipartisan Senate support.

"We have a minority of the minority in the Senate voting for this bill," said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okl., referring to the 15 or so Republicans expected to back the Senate measure. "That's not going to put a lot of pressure on the majority of the majority in the House."

Two senior House Republi-

can leadership aides were more blunt when speaking privately: Speaker John A. Boehner has no intention of angering conservative voters and jeopardizing the House Republican majority in 2014 in the interest of courting Hispanic voters on behalf of a 2016 Republican presidential nominee who does not yet exist.

If anything, the politics of a gerrymandered House where Republican lawmakers have much more to fear politically from the right than from the left could push many Republicans to oppose a conservative alternative to the Senate's plan.

Even advocates of a comprehensive immigration bill

that includes a pathway to legalization for undocumented immigrants now in the country say that Senate passage as early as Friday would not change House sentiment quickly.

"The House is not going to get logrolled by the Senate," said Rep. Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin, who lost his bid to be vice president last year in part because of the Republican Party's abysmal showing with immigrant voters. "We'll have a more methodical, patient way of doing this."

"Can we pass a House bill? It's a very open question," said Rep. Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania, a leading voice among a shrinking group of moderate Republicans. □

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## Judge in Martin case weighs police calls

**KYLE HIGHTOWER**

**MIKE SCHNEIDER**

**Associated Press**

**SANFORD, Fla. (AP)** — Several times in six months, neighborhood watch captain George Zimmerman called police to report suspicious characters in the gated townhouse community where he lived. Each

"It shows the context in which the defendant sought out his encounter with Trayvon Martin," Mantei said.

Defense attorney Mark O'Mara argued that the calls were irrelevant and that nothing matters but the seven or eight minutes before Zimmerman fired

to revive Martin as bubbling sounds came from his chest, and a police manager described how she helped Zimmerman set up the neighborhood watch. In the calls, Zimmerman identifies himself as a neighborhood watch volunteer and recounts that his neighborhood has had



Diana Smith, crime scene technician for the Sanford Police Department, shows a bag of Skittles, which was collected as evidence, to the jury during Zimmerman's trial in Seminole circuit court in Sanford, Fla. Tuesday, June 25, 2013. Zimmerman has been charged with second-degree murder for the 2012 shooting death of Trayvon Martin.

(AP Photo/Orlando Sentinel, Gary W. Green)

time, when asked, he reported that the suspects were black males.

On Tuesday, the judge at Zimmerman's murder trial in the killing of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin listened to those five calls and weighed whether to let the jury hear them, too.

Prosecutors want to use them to bolster their argument that Zimmerman was increasingly frustrated with repeated burglaries and had reached a breaking point the night he shot the unarmed teenager.

The recordings show Zimmerman's "ill will," prosecutor Richard Mantei told Judge Debra Nelson.

the deadly shot into Martin's chest.

The prosecution is "going to ask the jury to make a leap from a good, responsible, citizen behavior to seething behavior," O'Mara said.

The judge did not immediately rule on whether to admit the recordings.

Prosecutors played the calls with the jurors out of the courtroom at the beginning of a day in which a former Zimmerman neighbor testified about what she saw of the confrontation. Also, prosecutors presented graphic photos of Martin's body, a police officer described trying

a rash of recent break-ins. In one call, he asks that officers respond quickly since the suspects "typically get away quickly."

In another, he describes suspicious black men hanging around a garage and mentions his neighborhood had a recent garage break-in. Zimmerman, 29, could get life in prison if convicted of second-degree murder for gunning down Martin as the young man walked from a convenience store.

Zimmerman followed him in his truck and called a police dispatch number before he and the teen got into a fight. □

## US man pleads guilty in \$13M Facebook fraud

**LARRY NEUMEISTER**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A Florida investment adviser and onetime Oregon candidate for governor cried as he pleaded guilty Tuesday in a \$13 million securities fraud scheme that prosecutors say capitalized on enthusiasm for shares of Facebook and other Internet companies about to go public.

Craig L. Berkman, 71, entered the plea to securities fraud and wire fraud in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, agreeing to serve between eight and 10 years in prison, according to the terms of a written agreement between Berkman and prosecutors. Otherwise, he would have faced up to 40 years in prison.

Berkman, a Republican candidate for Oregon governor in 1994 when he was a millionaire who had accumulated wealth by creating and selling high-tech companies, admitted that he falsely claimed to investors in December 2010 that he owned shares of Menlo Park, California-based Facebook Inc., Chicago-based Groupon Inc. and Mountain View, California-based LinkedIn Inc., among other companies.

"I deeply regret my actions," a sobbing Berkman told a federal magistrate judge. "I have devastated my family. I apologize to them and to all the investors, and I am very, very sorry."

Berkman, who served as Oregon's state Republican Party chairman from 1989 to 1993, said he told investors their money would be used to buy shares of companies such as Facebook before their initial public offerings even though he

knew he was knowingly over-representing the number of Facebook shares he owned.

"I also engaged in fraud and deceit," he said. "I used the money invested with my companies for purposes other than purchasing pre-IPO shares of companies, as I had promised investors."

Prosecutors say he pocketed much of the \$13.2 million he received from more than 120 investors during the scheme, which stretched from 2010 until his March 2013 arrest. The government says he transferred the investors' money into his personal account rather than using it to acquire shares of Facebook. Berkman admitted in a statement he read aloud that he used "close to \$6 million to pay creditors in a bankruptcy proceeding" even though he had falsely promised that the source of the funds paid was not investor funds that he controlled.

"I knew that I was not authorized to use investor funds for these purposes and I did not disclose to the investors that I used their funds for these purposes," Berkman said.

Prosecutors said he used another \$4.8 million to pay off earlier investors and spent another \$1.6 million on legal fees, travel and other personal expenses, including cash withdrawals.

At one point, Berkman promised that he would not challenge the way the government organized charges in his plea.

"Yes, your honor," he said. "And I want to thank the prosecution for their willingness to work with me in this matter." □

## Reports reflect Fed's message of stronger economy

C. S. RUGABER

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. housing recovery is strengthening. Factories

losses since Chairman Ben Bernanke said last week that the Fed will likely scale back its economic stimulus within months — a move that would send long-term



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke speaks during a news conference in Washington. The brightening US economic picture captured in four reports Tuesday, June 25, 2013, suggests that the economy could accelerate in the second half of the year, underscoring the message last week from the Federal Reserve.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

are fielding more orders. And Americans' confidence in the economy has reached its highest point in 5½ years.

That brightening picture, captured in four reports Tuesday, suggests that the economy could accelerate in the second half of the year. It underscores the message last week from the Federal Reserve, which plans to slow its bond-buying program this year and end it next year if the economy continues to strengthen. The Fed's bond purchases have helped keep long-term interest rates low.

Investors appeared to welcome the flurry of positive data. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 100 points to close at 14,760, and broader stock indexes also ended the day up. Those gains made up only a fraction of the markets'

rates up.

But the rising confidence of U.S. consumers shows that most Americans are focused on a better job market, said Beth Ann Bovino, chief economist at Standard & Poor's.

"Maybe households agree with the Fed: the economy is improving," Bovino said. The Conference Board said its consumer confidence index jumped this month to 81.4, the highest reading since January 2008. The New York-based research group said consumers appear more encouraged by economic conditions and more optimistic about where the economy and job market are likely headed over the next six months.

Last month, U.S. employers added 175,000 jobs, which almost exactly matched the average increase of the previous 12 months.

Steady job growth has gradually reduced the unemployment rate to 7.6 percent from a peak of 10 percent in 2009. And rising home and stock prices since the recession ended four years ago have made many Americans feel wealthier.

The combination has kept consumers spending this year despite higher Social Security taxes and steep government spending cuts that took effect this year. The survey was completed June 13, so it didn't reflect the past week's plunge in stock prices. The market turmoil might lower July's consumer confidence. Still, many economists say they doubt that any drop in confidence would be dramatic.

For most Americans, the biggest investment is their home. And a steady rise in prices is allowing them recover much of the wealth they lost during and immediately after the Great Recession.

U.S. home prices jumped 12.1 percent in April compared with a year ago, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index. That was the biggest year-over-year gain since March 2006. For a fourth straight month, prices rose from a year earlier in all 20 cities in the index. Twelve cities posted double-digit price gains. More buyers and a limited supply of available homes have lifted prices in most cities. Higher prices have, in turn, fueled further sales

and encouraged builders to ramp up construction. A more sustainable housing recovery is contributing to economic growth and creating more jobs.

Sales of new homes rose in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 476,000, the Commerce Department said. That was the fastest pace since July 2008. Though sales of new homes remain below the 700,000 annual rate that most economists consider healthy, the pace has jumped 29 percent from a year ago.

The weakest part of the economy this year has been manufacturing, which has been held back by a recession in Europe and tepid growth in other overseas markets. □

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## Brazen Taliban attack at the Afghan presidential palace

DAVID RISING

RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— A Taliban attack at the gates of the Afghan presidential palace cast a cold light Tuesday on the course of a war that Washington remains committed to ending.

A week after NATO forces handed all security operations to the Afghans, local forces fought off the attackers on their own, killing all eight militants without calling in any coalition help. But the assault also made clear that the Taliban's fighting spirit remains unbroken and demonstrated their ability to bluff their way past two checkpoints and storm a highly fortified zone of the capital.

The firefight took place in Ariana square, about 500 meters (yards) and several more checkpoints away from the presidential palace, where President Hamid Karzai was apparently



Afghan security forces investigate near the entrance gate of the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan Tuesday, June 25, 2013. Suicide attackers blew up a car bomb and battled security forces outside the presidential palace Tuesday after infiltrating one of the most secure areas of the capital.

(AP photo/Rahmat Gul)

preparing for a speech later in the morning.

The attack could complicate American efforts to try to get Karzai's government to sit down with the

Taliban to talk peace. U.S. President Barack Obama later talked with Karzai in a video conference that lasted more than an hour and covered issues includ-

ing the peace process and the newly opened Taliban political office in the Gulf nation of Qatar, Karzai's office said without giving further details.

The White House said Obama and Karzai affirmed that Afghanistan, not the U.S., must lead the reconciliation process. The leaders also said they still support meetings between Afghanistan's High Peace Council and Taliban representatives at a political office the Taliban recently opened in Qatar.

The Taliban have said they would continue fighting even as they pursued peace talks, and the attack served to drive that home, said Moeen Marastial, a political analyst and former member of the Afghan parliament.

"The main point is the Taliban wants to show to the government of Afghanistan and to the world and to the powers who are working for the peace process that they are in power," Marastial said. "They can come close to the palace, they can come close to the places where NATO is, where American forces are — they wanted to show to the world that 'we can do it.'"

The gunbattle started about 6:30 a.m. near the east gate leading to the palace next to the Afghan Ministry of Defense and the former Ariana Hotel, which former U.S. intelligence officials have confirmed is used by the CIA. One carload of Taliban fighters dressed in military-style camouflage uniforms emerged from their black Land Cruiser and started shooting.

Another got stuck between two checkpoints and detonated their explosives-laden vehicle.

The Taliban said all eight of its fighters died in the attack, while the Interior Ministry said three security guards were killed and another wounded. □

## Egypt protesters look to army backing

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Just a

year ago, Egypt's liberals and pro-democracy youth movements were demanding the military, which took over from the ousted Hosni Mubarak, leave power. But after a tumultuous year under a freely elected Islamist president, many of them are hoping for the army's protection as they try to force out Mohammed Morsi with protests this weekend.

Morsi's opponents calculate they can push him to go through the sheer number of people they bring into the streets Sunday — building on widespread discontent with his running

of the country — plus the added weight of the army's backing.

After that, they believe that the Islamists have misruled so badly that a new election would yield a different result.

Morsi's backers, in turn, say the mainly liberal and secular political opposition is fomenting a coup to remove an elected leader because they can't compete at the ballot box.

Central to whatever happens on June 30 — the anniversary of Morsi's inauguration — is the stance of the military.

Last Sunday, Egypt's army chief gave the president and the opposition a week to reach an understanding

to prevent bloodshed and warned it would intervene to stop the nation from entering a "dark tunnel."

Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi also gave a thinly veiled warning to Morsi's backers that the military will step in if the protesters are attacked during the planned protests, as some hard-liners have threatened.

In the days since, there's been no movement toward a resolution. Morsi has given no signs of making any concessions. He invited all sides to a meeting Wednesday, when he plans a national address. The opposition in turn rejects talks, saying they come "extremely late." It is boycotting the meeting,

saying it is not serious, and will only join a dialogue if el-Sissi convenes it — a sign of how it sees him as the only reliable arbiter.

"There is just no time left. It is too late and anything the president tries to do now will in reality be an attempt to discourage people from coming out on Sunday. We have no confidence in the president," said Khaled Dawoud, the spokesman for the National Salvation Front, the main opposition grouping. In his comments, el-Sissi said the two sides must reach a "genuine" reconciliation, seeming to acknowledge the opposition's argument that Morsi's past calls for dialogue were empty gestures. □

## Germany probes Tunisian model plane attack suspects

**BERLIN (AP)** — German authorities are investigating two men of Tunisian origin suspected of planning to use model airplanes for terrorist attacks, prosecutors said Tuesday, as police in Germany and Belgium raided a series of sites searching for evidence of "possible attack plans and preparations."

No one was arrested in Tuesday's raids, which were carried out by about 90 police in the Stuttgart and Munich areas of southern Germany and in Saxony in eastern Germany, federal prosecutors said in a statement. One site in Belgium was raided, German officials said without elaborating.

Prosecutors said the investigation involved possible charges of "preparation of a serious, state-threatening act of violence," but they did not mention membership in any specific terrorist organization.

The two Tunisians are suspected of "procuring information and objects to commit Islamic extremist explosive attacks with remote-controlled model airplanes," prosecutors added. They gave no further information on the two men and didn't identify them.

However, the public broadcaster in southwestern Germany, SWF, quoted unnamed sources as saying that the two were studying aeronautics at the University of Stuttgart and were suspected of trying to develop techniques for remotely piloting model planes using GPS technology.

German authorities would not say whether the alleged plot was far advanced, but the German news agency dpa, quoting unnamed security sources, said the suspects had been under surveillance for more than a year.

The agency said authorities



A police officer carries a seized computer out of a raided house in Fellbach, Germany, Tuesday, June 25, 2013, as German prosecutors said they are investigating two men suspected of planning terrorist attacks using model airplanes. Authorities in Germany and neighboring Belgium conducted a series of searches of nine properties in Germany and Belgium.

(AP Photo/dpa, Franziska Kraufmann)

had recently detected "an increased interest in explosives and model aircraft." However, authorities added that the national terror threat had not been raised, suggesting police believe the alleged plan—if there were one—was in

early stages. Among the locations raided were the apartments of four acquaintances of the two men who were suspected of financing Islamic extremism, officials said. The investigation also targeted another acquain-

tance suspected of money laundering.

None of the suspects was identified.

Last November, a U.S. man, Rezwani Ferdaus, was sentenced to 17 years in prison over a plot to fly remote-controlled model planes packed with explosives into the Pentagon and U.S. Capitol.

Last year, Spanish police released a video they claimed showed suspected al-Qaida members training for a bombing raid using a model plane. Two Russians of Chechen origin were charged with possession of explosives but were released in April for lack of evidence. A Turk living in Spain was also arrested but later released.

Germany has seen only one successful attack by an Islamic radical — the fatal shooting of two U.S. airmen at Frankfurt airport in 2011 by a Kosovo native who grew up in Germany and became radicalized by watching jihadist propaganda on the Internet. □

## Eiffel Tower workers on strike, monument closed

**PARIS (AP)** — France's Eiffel Tower—normally open 365 days a year—shut down Tuesday because of a strike, leaving tourists at the landmark Paris monument stuck on the ground.

The company that manages the tower says the CGT union, which represents most of the Eiffel Tower's 300 workers, called the walkout in the morning. It was not immediately clear if the strike would move into a second day.

Company director Nicolas Lefebvre told The Associated Press that management and the union are in negotiations this week over salary raises, company profit-

sharing policy and other issues.

Tourists were crestfallen when they learned they would have to forgo the classic Paris thrill of a climb up the tower.

"Well, it's my first time here and actually it is our last day," said Olga Castillanos, 26, of Los Angeles. Visiting the Eiffel Tower "is the last thing we wanted to do as tourists and we were not able to do it."

The 124-year-old tower gets about 25,000 tourists daily. Though it is open every day, it occasionally closes because of suicide threats, bomb threats—or strikes. □

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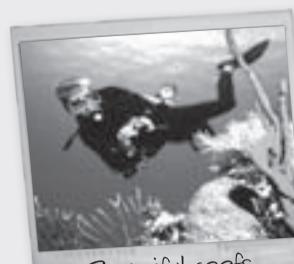
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## Brazil protests continue despite proposed reforms



Suspects sit with their hands behind their backs after their arrest during a police operation in the Nova Holanda slum, part of the Complexo da Mare, in Rio de Janeiro, Tuesday, June 25, 2013. The police operation aimed to capture an alleged looter, who according to police killed an officer after a peaceful protest Monday night. At least seven people died and two suspects were captured during Tuesday's operation, according to police.

(AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

hoods. About 1,000 people in Niteroi marched and other demonstrations took place in five other states. Police in Rio de Janeiro charged into the Nova Holanda slum and killed at least eight people as they hunted for the killer of a police officer who died after a protest the night before that devolved into a clash with demonstrators who looted stores and robbed bystanders.

"We think the people who are most interested in the demands being made in the street demonstrations of the past several days are those who live in these kind of poor areas," said Guilherme Boulos, one of the leaders of Tuesday's protests on Sao Paulo's outskirts.

So far, Brazilian protesters don't appear appeased by Rousseff's proposals, which shifted some of the burden for progress onto Brazil's widely loathed Congress by calling for a plebiscite on political reform lawmakers will have to approve. The divided Congress would likely struggle to take any quick action on such a plebiscite.

Protesters have filled cities to air a wide spectrum of grievances including poor public services and the high cost of hosting next year's World Cup soccer tournament and the 2016 Olympics.

About 100,000 people were expected to march

in the city of Belo Horizonte on Wednesday before Brazil plays Uruguay in the semifinals of the Confederations Cup. City officials declared a holiday and said they were expecting confrontations with demonstrators.

Sepp Blatter, president of international soccer organizing body FIFA, was scheduled to attend the game. FIFA officials have said security has been boosted because of the protests, but it wasn't immediately known if any changes were expected in Belo Horizonte because of Blatter's presence.

In Porto Alegre, Ronaldo Sielichow, president of that city's Association of Store Owners, asked law enforcement to beef up security after looting hit the southern city over the past few days during demonstrations.

Rousseff told governors and mayors Monday that her administration would allocate \$23 billion for new spending on urban public transport, but she didn't provide details on what the new projects would be. Four leaders from the free-transit activist group that launched the demonstrations more than a week ago said she also gave them no concrete plans while meeting with them.

She said her government would focus on five priorities: fiscal responsibility and controlling inflation; political reform; health care; public transport, and education. In her weekly column posted Tuesday on the presidency's website, Rousseff said: "The money spent to build or renovate stadiums for the World Cup is not part of the federal budget and does not affect funds earmarked for health and education." □

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## Draghi defends European Central Bank crisis measures

DAVID McHUGH

GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — European Central Bank head Mario Draghi again defended the ECB's bond-buying program Tuesday, saying the crisis backstop was more important now following recent market turbulence sparked by other central banks around the world. Draghi said in a speech in Berlin that the offer to buy bonds issued by indebted countries "is even more essential now as we see potential changes in the monetary policy stance, with associated uncertainty, in other jurisdictions of the global economy."

The U.S. Federal Reserve

has roiled markets by indicating it could taper off its emergency stimulus measures next year. The Fed has been buying longer-term bonds in the open market, which drove down long-term interest rates and sent stocks and bonds higher.

Meanwhile, Chinese authorities have tried to rein in excessive lending, leading to a spike last week in interbank borrowing rates. Japan has also said it will add large monetary stimulus. Draghi did not mention any central bank by name. Draghi said that the ECB's exit from its own stimulus measures "is still distant, since inflation is low and unemployment is high."

The ECB's steps have included the bond offer; cheap, unlimited loans to banks; and a record low

benchmark rate of 0.5 percent. The 17-country euro-zone remains in recession with an unemployment

rate of 12.2 percent. The ECB hasn't bought any bonds since announcing its plan last year. □



The President of the European Central Bank, ECB, Mario Draghi delivers the opening speech at the annual meeting of the ruling Christian Democratic Union, CDU, party's Economic Council in Berlin, Germany, Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

## Strike shuts down Indian Kashmir as Singh visits

AIJAZ HUSSAIN

Associated Press

**SRINAGAR, India (AP)** — Shops, businesses and schools were closed in Indian-controlled Kashmir after separatist groups called for a strike Tuesday to protest a visit by the Indian prime minister to the disputed Himalayan region.

Large numbers of police and paramilitary forces were deployed in Srinagar, Kashmir's main city, a day after a daring rebel attack in which eight army soldiers were killed and 13 others were wounded.

Police closed off several main roads in Srinagar. Paramilitary soldiers with automatic weapons swarmed a convention center where Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was to meet local officials later Tuesday to review the progress of development projects in the state.

The Himalayan territory of

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan and claimed entirely by both. More than a dozen rebel groups in Indian-controlled Kashmir have been fighting since 1989 for its independence or merger with Pakistan.

More than 68,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the fighting.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Islamic militants and sending them into Indian-held Kashmir to attack government forces and other targets — a charge Islamabad denies. India and Pakistan have fought two of three wars over control of Kashmir since their independence from Britain in 1947.

Late Monday, in a message to local news agencies, Kashmir's biggest rebel group,

Hizb-ul Mujahideen, claimed responsibility for the attack. □

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# Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro visits Haiti

**EVENS SANON**

**Associated Press**

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**

— Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro made his first official visit to Haiti on Tuesday as the countries began negotiations to figure out ways to renew a special fund that uses oil money on mostly infrastructure projects.

Maduro and Haitian President Michel Martelly met privately for several hours on the grounds of where the National Palace stood before it collapsed in the 2010 earthquake.

Venezuela is one of the biggest donors to help impoverished Haiti rebuild from the catastrophic 2010 earthquake.

Much of that support comes from Venezuela's PetroCaribe fund, a pact created in 2005 that gives suppliers below-market fi-

nancing for oil.

It has an interest rate of only 1 percent to 2 percent with a two-year grace period, and the funds are welcome by Haiti because they are under the control of the central government. Under the agreement, Haiti has used millions of dollars from PetroCaribe to pay for fuel, renovate power stations, and develop social programs.

The money was also used to repave a runway at the international airport in Haiti's second largest city; the facility was renamed for Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez.

"President Chavez wanted to come here but he didn't get a chance to come back," Maduro told reporters.

"I'm here representing President Chavez."

Ninety four percent of the



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, center, greets supporters as he walks with Haiti's President Michel Martelly, right, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, June 25, 2013. Maduro is visiting Haiti in his first official trip to the Caribbean nation as president.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

## Jamaican seeking changes to anti-sodomy law

**DAVID McFADDEN**

**Associated Press**

**KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)**

— A gay rights activist got his first court hearing Tuesday on his effort to bring a constitutional challenge to Jamaica's nearly 150-year-old colonial-era law that bans sex between men.

The rare court challenge to the 1864 anti-sodomy law is being pushed by Javed Jaghai, a young outreach worker for the Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals & Gays, the Caribbean

country's sole gay rights group. On Tuesday, the matter had its initial mention in the chambers of Jamaica's Supreme Court. Justice Carol Edwards gave the attorney general, who is named as the defendant, until mid-September to file a response and the next hearing was scheduled for early October. Jaghai is seeking authorization to take his case to the Constitutional Court. Edwards authorized a number of religious associations

and a child advocacy group to join the case as interested parties. Homosexuality is perceived as a sin by Jamaica's influential religious lobby and nearly a dozen other Caribbean nations where anti-sodomy laws are on the books. The rarely used law bans anal sex and sets a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and hard labor. Anything interpreted as "gross indecency" between men can be punished by two years in prison.

current infrastructure, agriculture and education projects are being done in Haiti are being done through the PetroCaribe fund, Martelly told reporters at a press event that began five hours late. The leaders didn't take questions.

Haitian Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe and Martelly attended Chavez's funeral, and Martelly attended Maduro's inauguration in April.

That same month, Maduro was supposed to travel to Port-au-Prince for a re-

gional summit hosted by Martelly but cancelled. The event brought together more than a dozen heads of state.

In the first visit by a Venezuelan head-of-state since Chavez came in 2007, Maduro spent the day with Martelly, the two wearing white guayaberas and accompanied by their wives. Before reaching the presidential grounds, they toured a national museum and viewed a statue in a public plaza in downtown Port-au-Prince. □

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# LOCAL Aruba TODAY

## An Aruban Olympic hopeful: Paseo Herencia honors Zaithyel Soekandar on their “Wall of Fame”



**PALM BEACH** - Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall in Palm Beach is more than a shopping center, it is a history lesson of Aruba, past, present and in the making. Owners and management take particular pleasure in showcasing young athletes who are fine role models for Aruban youth. Their “Wall of Fame,” co-sponsored by CMB Bank, is dedicated to those who demonstrate the talent, determination and tenacity it takes to attain medal-winning status in the international arena

of sports competition. The newest addition to the Wall of Fame is BMX biker Zaithyel Soekandar. The fifteen-year-old presently holds second place in his division in the world of BMX biking competition, having recently come home with the bronze medal from the Pan American games. His father, Audy, a former BMX competitor and his coach, Pedro Estaba, are confident that Zaithyel will be Aruba's first athlete to fully qualify for the next Summer Olympics Games in 2016.



By that time, he will be of an age past the youth divisions, and can compete as an adult in the “Elite” category.

Paseo Herencia welcomed Zaithyel to their Wall of Fame by hosting a bike rally for enthusiasts of all ages late Sunday afternoon, June 23. Leading the pack with Zaithyel as they made their way from Palm Beach to Eagle Beach and back was Aruba's Minister of Health and Sports, Richard Visser, and Parliamentarian Donny Rasmijn. Paseo Herencia GM Valerie Pietersz-Camacho and Marketing Manager Candy Rasmijn, with their children, also joined the rally to show support for a healthy lifestyle and proper exercise. Zaithyel's portrait was unveiled to his proud parents, Minerva Kock and Audy, and the public, at the finish of the rally.

Zaithyel, is known as “Z” to his friends, as well as “Zoolander” and “The Missile” on the biking circuit. He and his younger brother, Zyzion, were declared the champions at the Day 1 races of the BMX Gator Nationals in Oldsmar, Florida in March of this year. Both now race for the U.S. team GHP in such events. Prior to this race on the U.S. National championship cir-



cuit, “Z” also took the top title at First Youth Dutch Caribbean BMX Championships in his division in November of last year. Despite having suffered a broken collarbone twice and serious injury to his kidney, “Z” is a fierce competitor and devoted to the sport. “When I was young, I loved doing all sports; soccer, swimming anything,” he explained. “But my father loved BMX biking and when I tried it, something really clicked for me. I know this sport was my destiny. I have been training and competing since I was seven.” His father, Audy, travels with his son to every competition, and they are about to depart for the U.S. for the summer round of qualifying meets that give him points towards the 2016 Olympics. Then it will be off to New Zealand for the big one: the UCI BMX World Championships in Auckland, July 24-28. Zaithyel is training daily, 25-28 hours weekly, determined to bring the gold home to Aruba. □



**At the Pelican Pier:**

## Aruba Synchro athletes, US colleagues enjoy a family day!



**ORANJESTAD** – Aruba Today was at the Pelican Pier, and had a very pleasant conversation with the Synchro Athlete Anouk Eman. She commented that she, together with another colleague, Kyra Hovertsz, are training hard for an international competition which will



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take place in Barcelona, Spain in July. Anouk and Kyra will represent Aruba in the category of duet and individual. Anouk also told AT that two of her American colleagues came to Aruba, together with their family and took their time during their stay on the island to enjoy it to the fullest. They went on a boat with the Aruban Athletes, having a terrific time. □

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Presented by The Humidor:

## Tierra del Sol's Heritage Cup 2013: Rasmijn takes the Lead!!



**WEST PUNT** - It was a perfect day to play golf on Saturday at Tierra del Sol. Players' scores were very close, but one as always has to win. Orlando Rasmijn with 37 stableford points. First place Prize a Box of Fine Cigars from proud sponsor The Humidor. Second place Dr. Hunt Riley by way of scorecard playoff took second place with 36 points. Closest to the pin Matthew Brinkman, Chivas Regal birdie achievement went to Matthew Brinkman.

Pepia Est. N.V. also joined the Heritage Cup event with a Single Malt Whiskey tasting, what better way to enjoy a Cigar then with a Scotch in the other hand.

One more week to go.... Who can make their move into the top 5 before the final event.... Next week Event 4 will tell.... This is the Heritage Cup 2013 presented by The Humidor at Tierra del Sol Resort Spa & Country Club.□



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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### Williams eying 17<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam

AP Tennis Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — After a week filled by a headline-grabbing, off-court tiff with Maria Sharapova and a series of apologies stemming from a magazine profile, Serena Williams got back to doing what she does best. Better than anyone in the world right now, really.



Serena Williams reacts as she plays Mandy Minella of Luxembourg in a Women's first round singles match in Wimbledon, London, Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Sang Tan)

Extending her winning streak to 32 matches, the longest single-season run on the women's tour since 2000, Williams began her bid for a sixth Wimbledon championship and 17th Grand Slam title overall with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over 92nd-ranked Mandy Minella of Luxembourg on Tuesday. "You can call her pretty much unbeatable," Minella said. "She's playing better than ever. ... Every time she steps on court, you can see why." And yet Williams, the defending champion at the All England Club, and Patrick Mouratoglou, the French coach who's been helping her during the current 75-3 stretch that dates to the start of Wimbledon last year, both gave this assessment: There are areas of her game that could use some fine-tuning.

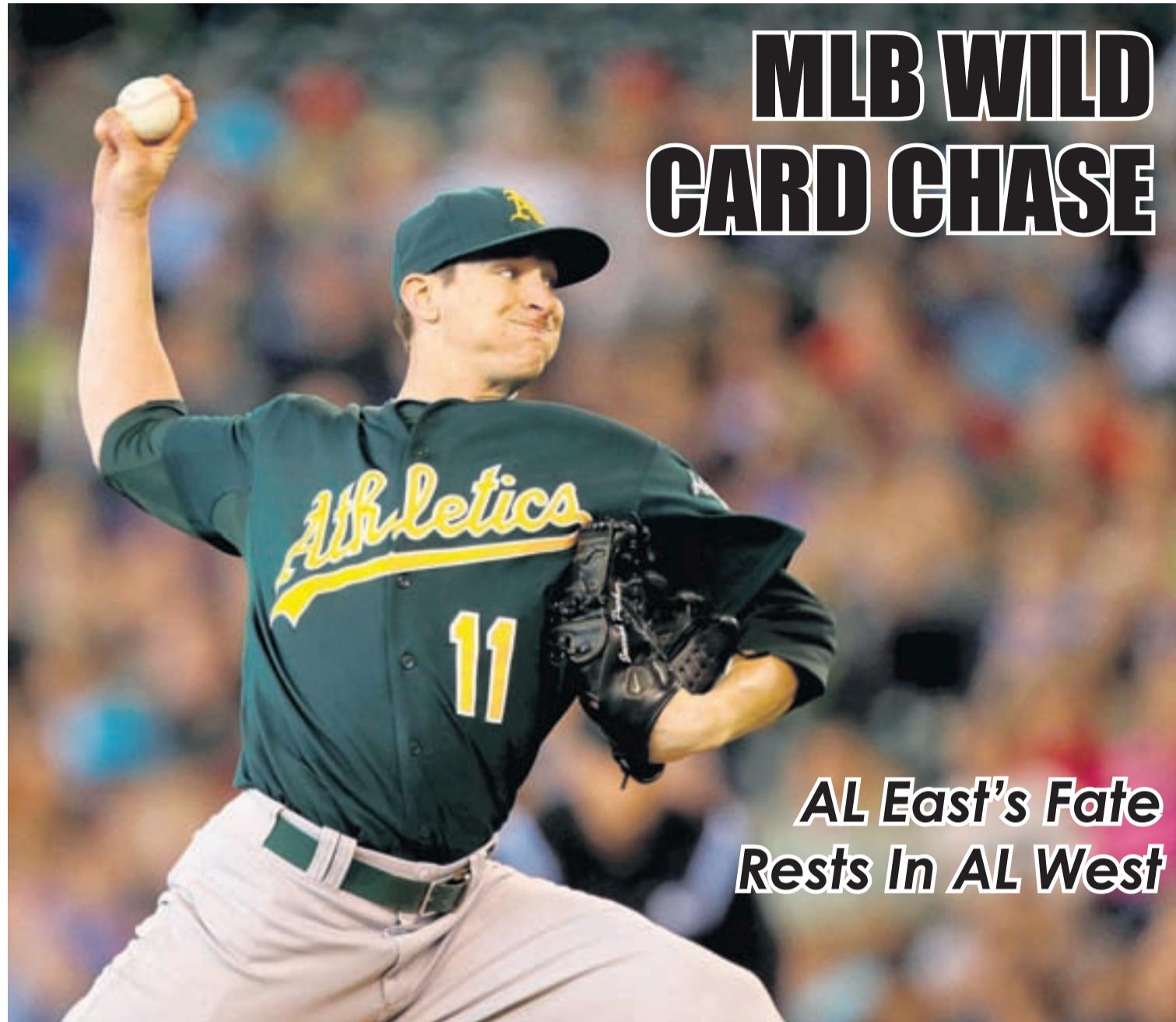
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# SPORTS | A17

WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2013

## MLB WILD CARD CHASE

### AL East's Fate Rests In AL West



Oakland Athletics starting pitcher Jarrod Parker throws in the first inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Sunday, June 23, 2013, in Seattle.

**BENJAMIN HOFFMAN**

© 2013 New York Times

One division's loss is another division's gain, at least in terms of wild-card standings. The wild card, introduced by major league baseball for the 1995 season, has often been a consolation prize to whichever team finished second in the American League East. But with the overmatched Houston Astros switching from the National League to the American League West this season, the East suddenly has some competition for that doorway into the postseason.

In essence, baseball's unbalanced schedule, in which teams play far more

games against clubs in their own divisions, has meant that the Astros have turned into punching bags for some of the other clubs in the AL West, allowing them to fatten their records. And that has created a headache for AL East teams, who do not play the Astros nearly as often. The effect of this disparity could be telling. Before last season, when a second wild-card slot was introduced for each league, a team from the AL East took the lone extra spot in the playoffs in 13 of 17 seasons. And with the Baltimore Orioles capturing one of the two spots last season, the East has had a share of the

wild card in each of the last six years.

The standings in the American League through Sunday had the Orioles holding on to the second wild-card spot by half a game over the New York Yankees. Just two and a half games behind the Yankees were two more AL East clubs: the Toronto Blue Jays, winners of 11 consecutive games entering Monday, and the Tampa Bay Rays. But in the top wild-card spot, three games ahead of the Yankees in the win column, were the Oakland Athletics of the AL West. A streaky team this season, they might not have been doing so well over all had

(AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

the Astros not joined their division.

Indeed, if you subtract the Athletics' 9-0 record against the Astros this season, Oakland's record goes from 44-34 to 35-34, a winning percentage that would put them well out of contention.

And it is not just the Athletics who have benefited from the Astros' move. The Texas Rangers, currently leading the AL West by one game, have gone 5-1 against Houston. The Seattle Mariners are off to a back-and-forth start against their new division patsies, with a 4-5 record.

Continued on Page 18

## Wimbledon:

## Back on court, Williams stretches winning streak

Continued from Page 17

"After today, there's so many ways that I can improve," the No. 1-ranked and No. 1-seeded Williams said, "and that I'm going to need to improve if I want to be in the second week of this tournament." Really? How about some examples?

"Come on," Williams replied, tilting her head and smiling. Here was Mouratoglou's take after watching Williams win her first 17 service points and compile a 25-5 edge in total winners on Centre Court: "I mean, of course, not everything is perfect yet. It's interesting to see what we need to work on for the (coming) days." They also agreed that she did not have too hard a time setting aside the events of the previous seven days, which included a lot of saying "I'm sorry" — face-to-face with Sharapova, at a news conference, in two separate statements posted on the web — over things Williams was quoted as saying in a Rolling Stone story. Williams made a negative reference in a phone conversation to a top-five player's love life (the piece's author surmised that was about Sharapova) and an off-the-cuff remark about a widely publicized rape case in the U.S. that was perceived by some as criticizing the victim.

"It hasn't been a distraction," Williams insisted. "I'm just here to focus on the tennis."

All in all, by easily winning her first match since claiming the French Open title on June 8, she helped restore order at Wimbledon 24 hours after a chaotic Day 1. It was a day that included the only first-round Grand Slam loss of 12-time major champion Rafael Nadal's career and a scary-looking, knee-twisting tumble by two-time Australian Open winner Victoria Azarenka during her win. The highest-seeded player to depart Tuesday was No. 10 Maria Kirilenko, beaten 6-3, 6-4 by teenager Laura Robson, the first British woman to beat a top-10 player at Wimbledon in 15 years. Of the 10 local players who entered the tournament, Robson and reigning U.S. Open champion Andy Murray, last year's runner-up at the All England Club, are the only two left.

"It's hard for all the British players to come in here and, you know, lose first round," said Robson, who beat Kim Clijsters at the 2012 U.S. Open in the last match of the four-time major champion's career, "because you just feel extra disappointed."

Other women winning easily included No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska, the 2012 runner-up to Williams; 2011



**Serena Williams of the United States serves to Mandy Minella of Luxembourg during their Women's first round singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Tuesday, June 25, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Sang Tan)

French Open champion Li Na; and No. 7 Angelique Kerber, who eliminated Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the U.S. 6-3, 6-4.

Nadal's straight-set loss to 135th-ranked Steve Darcis was still a main topic of conversation, and top-seeded Novak Djokovic called it a reminder that "you cannot take anything or anybody for granted."

"To be honest, I was expecting him to be a bit rusty on the court," Djokovic said. "In the opening rounds, obviously, it's very dangerous for top players who haven't been playing on grass. ... On the other side of the net is somebody

that is lower ranked, he has nothing to lose, so he's going for his shots."

As Djokovic dispatched 34th-ranked Florian Mayer of Germany 6-3, 7-5, 6-4, the only real hitch was when he slipped to the Centre Court grass. No. 4 David Ferrer, who reached his first Grand Slam final at the French Open but lost to Nadal, took two falls and said he felt a "little bit of pain" in his left ankle during a 6-1, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 victory over 101st-ranked Martin Alund of Argentina.

Sam Querrey, an American seeded 21st, lost 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3), 3-6, 2-6, 6-3 to 59th-ranked Australian Bernard

Tomic in a match most noteworthy for what was said afterward.

Tomic ripped into the ATP for barring his father, who is also his coach, from attending tournaments for 12 months because of pending assault charges and said he'll ask Wimbledon to let Dad attend his next match. Querrey, meanwhile, was miffed that Tomic got a chance to collect himself while being checked by trainers after saying he felt lightheaded in the fourth set.

"I knew he was kind of dizzy, but let's go; it's a physical game," Querrey said.

□

## MLB Wild-Cards: AL East's fate rests in AL West

Continued from Page 17

The Los Angeles Angels are the exception in the division, having gone 3-7 against Houston, including a four-game sweep that the Astros somehow pulled off earlier this month. Over all, the Astros are 13-21 in division games.

The situation is similar in the NL Central, the former home of the Astros, where the Chicago Cubs have a major league-worst 9-24 record against division opponents, which has helped

lead to both leaders in the NL wild-card standings — Pittsburgh and Cincinnati — coming from that division. Unfortunately for the Yankees, and the other four teams in the AL East, their division has no weak link. It should be noted that much of Houston's current trouble is almost by design. Houston's general manager, Jeff Luhnow, has been engineering an ambitious rebuilding project for the last few seasons, letting the major league club suffer in hopes of creating a contender. The strategy has re-

sulted in the team's picking first in the draft for two consecutive years, using those picks on Carlos Correa, a high school shortstop from Puerto Rico, and Mark Appel, a starting pitcher from Stanford. If things go right, the two could eventually anchor the Astros for years to come.

**New York Yankees shortstop Jayson Nix, top, leaps over a sliding Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria who was forced out after James Loney hit into a first-inning double play on Sunday, June 23, 2013, in New York.**

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)



## NASCAR NOTES:

## Truex Jr. checked to make sure win wasn't a dream

JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) -- After 218 consecutive losses, Martin Truex Jr. wasn't quite certain he'd actually won at Sonoma Raceway when he woke the day after the victory.

"I have not stopped smiling since Sunday, as you can imagine," Truex said Tuesday. "I woke up Monday morning and looked at my phone to make sure it really happened and I wasn't just dreaming. It's been way too long since I felt this good, and hopefully the next one won't be too far away."

Truex's previous only Sprint Cup Series win had been at Dover in 2007, and it took him more than six years to get back to Victory Lane. He'd been close plenty of times with Michael Waltrip Racing, only to come up short in his bid for a win.

This year alone, he led 142 laps at Texas but finished second, was fourth at Kansas after leading 46 laps, had an engine failure on a strong car at Dover and

on the road course at Sonoma, he was greeted by 131 text messages, 17 voice mails and 15 emails all offering congratulatory words.

Among the well-wishers was Dale Earnhardt Jr., who had a lengthy text conversation with Truex when he finally arrived back in North Carolina at

were Cup teammates at DEI for two full seasons.

"I can't really talk about what all we said to each other, but he was pretty impressed," Truex said. "He said 'Do you believe you just won at Sonoma? I tell everybody how good you are, and then you go win at the hardest place on the circuit.' "

What followed was a Monday night victory party attended by Truex's parents, friends and his MWR crew, which had never before won a race. The last time the NAPA car was in Victory Lane was in 2003 when Michael Waltrip drove it for DEI.

So the current crew members at MWR had never made it to Victory Lane. Waltrip essentially created the team from scratch with his NAPA sponsorship in 2006 when he formed his own team. □



Martin Truex Jr. takes the checkered flag as he wins the NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race Sunday, June 23, 2013, in Sonoma, Calif.

(AP Photo/Ben Margot)

was third at Michigan. In 2011, he finished second or third four times.

So when he finally grabbed that elusive win Sunday

"Not to mention my Twitter page was locked up, and I can't even get back through to all of them," Truex said.

3 am Monday morning. Truex won a pair of Nationwide Series championships driving for Dale Earnhardt Inc., and he and Earnhardt

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## Koepka gets major upgrade in Europe, another major

**DOUG FERGUSON**  
**The Associated Press**

Brooks Koepka played six straight weeks in six countries, knowing only that he would be flying home to Florida on Tuesday for a break he desperately needed.

He just didn't realize how much different the road map would be when he gets back to work.

Koepka is another young American who's taking the European route, and the payoff was measured in more than euros. The 23-year-old from Florida State won a Challenge Tour event in Scotland on Sunday, his third win of the season that gave him an instant promotion to the European Tour.

Still running on fumes, he took an early morning flight Monday from Scotland to London, drove straight to Sunningdale Golf Club and shot rounds of 69-65 for the low score among nine players who qualified for the British Open at Muirfield.

"Scotland was awesome. There was a lot of motivation there to get that third win before I headed back to the States," Koepka said Monday night. "And then the qualifier, I honestly don't know how I did it. I was running on two or three hours of sleep. I was thoroughly exhausted. Adrenaline or something took over. But as soon as I got off the golf course, I was done."

Instead of returning to a Challenge Tour event in Switzerland or Italy, he will play alongside Phil Mickelson and a host of other stars at Castle Stuart for the Scottish Open, his first event as a full European Tour member. Then, he will

drive south to Muirfield for his second major championship.

One item on the agenda while he's home is to sit down with agent Blake Smith at Hambric Sports

and figure out a schedule the rest of the year.

"Just getting on the European Tour is big in itself," Koepka said. "I get to play with some of the best players in the world, and it

will be nice to have some feedback with Peter, who's someone I really enjoy being around."

That would be Peter Uihlein, his roommate in south Florida, and someone who

knows these ropes. Uihlein also started his pro career on the smaller Challenge Tour in Europe, and he won the Madeira Island Open last month to secure his European Tour card. □



Brooks Koepka is another young American who's taking the European tour route, and the payoff has been measured in more than euros.

(Handout Photo)

## Mexico loses again at Under-20 World Cup

**MICHAEL CASEY**

**AP Sports Writer**

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — Mexico was on the brink of an early exit from the Under-20 World Cup after losing 1-0 to Paraguay on Tuesday, while newcomer El Salvador stunned Australia 2-1. Colombia, meanwhile, got its campaign on track with a 1-0 win over host Turkey. The victory moves the South American champions to the top of Group C following a disappointing opening draw against Australia. The win also denied Turkey an early chance to advance.

Paraguay, which drew its opening match against Mali, made the break-

through in the 52nd minute when substitute Arnaldo Sanabria fed Derlis Gonzalez, who scored with a superb side-footed volley.

As the CONCACAF champion, Mexico and its potent attack featuring Jesus Corona and Marco Bueno had been tipped as one of the tournament favorites. But it has struggled to perform in Turkey and Tuesday's match was no different. It missed several good chances — hitting the post twice, including with a free kick from Jorge Espericueta in the final minute.

Having lost 2-1 to Greece in its previous game, Mexico finds itself bottom of Group D with a match against

Mali remaining. Paraguay and Greece lead the group with four points after the Greeks drew 0-0 with Mali to also miss out on an early chance to qualify for the next round.

In Group C, El Salvador improved its chances of advancing with a victory that put its first points on the board.

Australia, which had earned a deserved 1-1 draw against fancied Colombia, started well with Joshua Brillante putting the young Socceroos ahead in the ninth minute.

But El Salvador, which lost 3-0 to Turkey in its opener, drew level just eight minutes later. Jairo Henriquez

delivered a deep cross which Kevin Barahona headed back across goal and into the path of Diego Coca, who scored.

Jose Pena provided the winner in the 40th, steering home a low cross from Miguel Ochoa.

After an uneventful first half, Turkey went on the attack and nearly scored courtesy of a dipping, swerving free-kick from about 30 yards (meters) by Hakan Calhanoglu.

But Colombia responded in style, with Juan Quintero twisting and turning just inside the area and then firing a blazing shot into the roof of the net in the 52nd. □

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## Bruins head into offseason proud after s stunning loss

HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** -- Don't tell David Krejci that adversity makes you stronger. Certainly not the shocking kind that left the Boston Bruins wondering how a night of hope became, in a mere 17 seconds, a long summer of disappointment.

That's all the time the Chicago Blackhawks needed to score two goals in the last 76 seconds and win the Stanley Cup with a 3-2 victory on Monday night. For the Bruins, Sunday's NHL draft, not a seventh and deciding game in Chicago, is the next big event. "It's not even a point to say that it's going to make us stronger in the future," said Krejci, the top scorer in this year's playoffs. "It's going to hurt for a while."

What went wrong?

"I don't know what happened," the Bruins center said. "It just did, you know?"

Management, though, must push on through the pain.

The Bruins have no first-round draft pick. They sent that to the Dallas Stars on April 2 for Jaromir Jagr, who had no goals in the playoffs. He did have 10 assists but was limited in Game 6 by injury.

They do have key players who could become free agents - goalie Tuukka Rask, right wing Nathan Horton, defenseman Andrew Ference - plus Jagr and backup goalie Anton Khudobin.

Rask emerged as one of the NHL's top goalies with a strong postseason. Horton had seven goals and 12 assists in the playoffs, but no goals and two assists against Chicago. Ference is a 13-year veteran

and could be supplanted by Torey Krug or Matt Bartkowski. Both showed promise as rookies.

Rask is the most important member of that group. He played 36 of 48 games in the lockout-shortened season and all 22 playoff games. He was a worthy successor to Tim Thomas, the MVP of the 2011 postseason who took this season off rather than try for a second championship in three years.

"It was kind of a roller-coaster," Rask said. "It was a difficult season even to start with because you know you're going to have a real tight schedule, play almost every other night. We played some good hockey and some not-so-good hockey."

"Going to the playoffs we made a miracle in the first round going through Toronto after that deficit. We made a good run."

Coach Claude Julien said he wasn't shocked, just disappointed - and proud of his players.

"It was tough walking in that dressing room and seeing how disappointed everybody was, and to try and tell them, as I often say, there's a lot of teams that would have loved to have been in our position," he said. "It's my job to do that and to let them know that it's been a great year."

Boston had 17 players from the team that won the Cup in 2011. There shouldn't be much turnover this offseason, either.

The Bruins are still waiting for Tyler Seguin to live up to his status as the second pick in the 2010 draft. He had 13 goals in the regular season but one in the playoffs. "I've never felt anything like this." □

## 2 goals in 17 seconds lift Blackhawks to cup

JEFF Z. KLEIN

© 2013 New York Times

**BOSTON** - The Chicago Blackhawks completed perhaps the most improbable Stanley Cup clinching comeback in history Monday night. Trailing the Boston Bruins, 2-1, with 76 seconds left, the Blackhawks erupted for two goals 17 seconds apart to stun the Bruins, 3-2, and win their second Cup in the last four

ously, that was a big goal for them to go up 2-1. But you never know what can happen, so you don't stop playing until the end." The TD Garden crowd, roaring in celebration, suddenly fell silent. The only cheers came from the 200 friends and family chartered in by the Blackhawks. As they watched, the 34 1/2-pound silver chalice was wheeled out and pre-

"These are the feelings you live for," Kane said as he celebrated with his family on the Garden ice. It was the Blackhawks' fifth championship, joining their triumphs in 1934, 1938, 1961 and 2010. The Blackhawks' lightning-strike goals brought to an end a classic series among the two Original Six teams. The Bruins came out hard and kept charging, overwhelm-



**Chicago Blackhawks left wing Bryan Bickell (29) celebrates his game-tying goal in the third period against Boston Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara, bottom left, of Slovakia, and goalie Tuukka Rask (40), of Finland, in Game 6 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Finals Monday, June 24, 2013, in Boston. Chicago won 3-2 to win the Stanley Cup.** (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

seasons and fifth overall. Milan Lucic put the Bruins ahead, 2-1, with 7:49 left in regulation, seemingly forcing a Game 7 in Chicago on Wednesday. But then lightning struck. With 1:16 left, Bryan Bickell finished a feed from Jonathan Toews, knocking the puck past goaltender Tuukka Rask. Then, with 59 seconds to go, Dave Bolland shot a rebound off the goal post past the sprawling Rask. "How can you call that?" Toews said, beaming, in the moments after victory. "We knew we needed just one bounce there. Obvi-

sented by Commissioner Gary Bettman to Toews, who raised it over his head in triumph. He became the first captain in the 87-year history of the Blackhawks to lift the Cup twice. Bolland's and Bickell's goals ended this almost unbearably tense series, in which three games went into overtime. Patrick Kane was voted the winner of the Conn Smythe Trophy as the playoffs' most valuable player, becoming the third straight American to receive the honor. Kane scored nine goals and 10 assists in the postseason.

ing the Blackhawks in the first period. But they scored only once, with a goal from the third line - Chris Kelly, Tyler Seguin and Daniel Paille. They practically owned the Blackhawks, penning them in their own end for long stretches and swarming goalie Corey Crawford. Finally, at 7:19 the three combined to score, Paille to Seguin to Kelly, who finished a backhand feed for his second goal of the finals, and of the playoffs. The Blackhawks did not mount a real threat until the fifth minute of the second period. □

# Headache relief

By: Dr. Carlos Viana



The French words for headache; mal de tête, has always seemed to make the affliction sound much less ominous. Thankfully most headaches are not serious even if very painful. However, head pain, in every country, is the most common human affliction and, even in this age of advances in medical technology there is still far more that we do not know about headaches than that which we do know.

In many eastern medical practices, especially Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) headaches have been treated with a higher success rate than they have in the West. Furthermore, TCM has a much different approach to understanding headaches, health, and the person as a whole.

Western, allopathic medicine classifies headaches by their specific symptoms and measurable biological effects. Individu-

als are usually classified as having a certain type of headache and treatment is based of this classification. There are eleven main types of headache classifications in western medicine. The first four are the most common and serious types of headaches and include head pain caused from vascular (brain arteries changing shape), muscle contraction (tightness), traction, and inflammation.

The other types of headaches include environmental or behavioral headaches caused by factors such as caffeine withdrawal, eyestrain, poor posture, and hunger. Trauma headaches are headaches that result from an injury often times, which is minor. Sensitivity headaches are a reaction to an allergy, food, chemical or environmental substance. Finally, sinus headaches, dental headaches, and exertion headaches are self explanatory.

Pharmaceuticals, which have dangerous side affects, are by far the most widely used treatment for headaches in western medicine, but allopathic Doctors do recognize the role played with food in headaches. Western doctors recognize sugar, MSG (Monosodium Glutamate, a flavor enhancer used in many foods), and food allergies as primary prevention factors in treating headaches. However, this is not nearly considered to be as important a

factor as it is in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Unfortunately, much more common treatment of headaches is through the use of pharmaceuticals. These pharmaceuticals are man made chemicals constructed with the intention of correcting a chemical imbalance. Western Medicine usually sees these imbalances as coming from the liver, the endocrine system, and occasionally the nervous system. This treatment also includes the regulation of hormones, mostly in women and is tied to the menstruation cycle. Many women find that they get headaches the day before menstrual flow begins or the day that flow actually begins an effect of estrogen withdrawal.

Traditional Chinese medicine sees a headache essentially as a disharmony within the person. Thus our treatment is to rebalance the disharmony, which in turn will help not only the headache but make the individual healthier as a whole. In our clinic we take on an approach that identifies the source of the head pain. We know that everything in existence is related. Slow moving colons produce purification chemicals with an extremely unpleasant smell that stimulates mucus production in the sinuses, chest, and produce headaches. Colon hydrotherapy or the washing of the large intestines is an easy detoxification procedure that eliminates headaches from this source.

Acupuncture is a useful, inexpensive and effective form of treatment

for people who suffer from chronic or migraine headaches. Studies have shown acupuncture to work better than conventional treatments alone and result in fewer headaches and no negative side affects.

Also, it has been shown repeatedly that acupuncture decreased the severity and frequency of headaches in those who experienced severe headaches. Acupuncture treatment involves the insertion of extremely fine needles into the skin at precise points in the body. It has been shown to help with migraine nausea and pain.

Many of the sources of headache pain we have seen in our clinic include dental problems and the toxic heavy metals that leak from dental amalgams. Headaches and migraines are an often reported complaint of people who have amalgam fillings in their teeth. Dentists knowledgeable in biocompatible dentistry are very effective in improving the condition.

Herbal tradition has used the herbs like dandelion to treat head pain. Dandelion combined with herbs that also detoxify and support the liver are an even better combination. Eating foods right for your metabolic type and including a de-stressing exercise and getting enough sleep are good lifestyle choices.

Get The Point! The longer the headache or migraine is left untreated the harder it is to stop. Most of the pharmaceutical medications used for

headaches have dangerous side effects and can cause rebound, which is a serious worsening of your headache. You probably already know that when you develop a migraine what may help is being calm; staying in a dark, quiet room; and sleeping. Rather than wait for your next headache or migraine, consider treatment and prevention with acupuncture, herbal treatments, and a personalized diet that have a five thousand year old tract record. Call to make an appointment.

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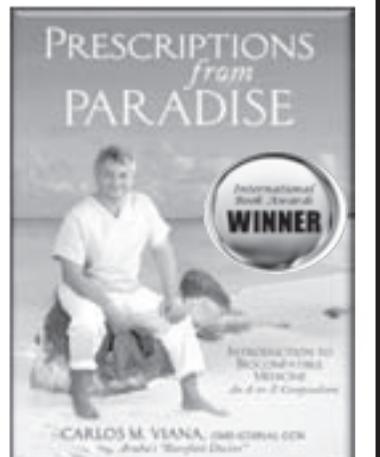
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## Google rivals seek tough EU antitrust move

BRUSSELS (AP) — A coalition of Google's competitors urged the European Union's antitrust watchdog Tuesday to reject the Internet giant's proposed concessions on displaying search results. "It would be better to do nothing than to accept Google's proposals," said Thomas Vinje of FairSearch, a group of 17 companies including Microsoft and TripAdvisor. "The proposals would make things worse rather than better," he insisted. The European Commission, the bloc's antitrust authority, has been investigating since 2010 whether Google is abusing its dominant market position and stifling competition. It pointed out several areas of concern, which Google is trying to address mainly by changing the way it displays search results. Google Inc.'s search engine enjoys a near-monopoly in Europe with a market share of about 90 percent, which gives it a huge edge over competitors to promote its own services such as Google News, Google Maps or its shopping and flight search functions. Complainants in the case had two months ending this week to provide the EU with feedback to the proposed remedies. The body's antitrust chief, Commissioner Joaquin Almunia, already hinted after the first month of the so-called market test that Google would be asked to do more to appease the competition concerns. Google has offered to more clearly label search results stemming from its own services to allow users to distinguish between natural search results and those promoted by Google. □

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## Coding camps for kids rise in popularity

CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The video game Jacob Asofsky is creating is simple: "Someone who is trying to take over the world and you try to stop them."

The 12-year-old from Florida is spending two weeks at a summer camp in a program that teaches programming skills to young people.

"It's about having fun, but it also gives them the tools to be able to do this at home because they don't have this in school," said Taylor Jones, director of the iD Tech Camp at Atlanta's Emory University.

So-called coding camps for children are becoming more popular amid a growing effort to expand access to computer programming and inspire more youths to seek computer science degrees and careers in technology. Their rise underscores a seeming mismatch in the U.S. economy: people like Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Tumblr founder David Karp illustrate the opportunities programming skills can create, yet universities are not graduating enough code-savvy students to meet employers' demands.

The iD Tech Camps, which have grown from 200 students in 1999 to 28,000 enrolled this year in courses at dozens of locations nationwide, use interest in gaming to build bridges to computer programming and hopefully careers in web developing, film animation and app creation for smart phones. Courses start at \$829 for a one-week course during the day with overnight students paying \$1,348.

On a recent weekday,

Asofsky was attending an iD Tech Camp on the campus with some 95 other youths under the age of 17. He was using the gaming software RPG Maker to create a video game in which the main character travels around the world, buys animals and armor and interacts with others along the way.

veloper's Kit — also known as UDK — and learning programming languages like Java and C++. The idea is to build self-confidence and spark interest in learning how computers work, all to perhaps plant the seed of a future career in programming.

There will be 1.4 million computing jobs by 2020

puter programming classes and the number of students graduating from college with a computer science degree is down from a decade ago, according to Code.org.

Earlier this year, President Barack Obama said programming should be a required course in high school, similar to foreign



A sign for Dev Bootcamp is shown at their office in San Francisco. Dev Bootcamp is one of a new breed of computer-programming schools that's proliferating in San Francisco and other U.S. tech hubs.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

"I have to say the interface of actually making a game is just as fun as playing a game," Asofsky said. "It's a lot like playing a game inside a game."

Early courses for children starting at age 7 use the photo and illustration software Adobe Photoshop and the gaming software Multimedia Fusion to create a simple arcade-style game.

"We sit down and talk about what makes games fun," said instructor Melissa Andrews, who was working with the youngest group of campers. "We get it down to the basics so they can make their own game."

Courses for older children include designing apps, creating sophisticated, 3-D, first-person shooter games using the Unreal De-

but only 400,000 computer science students by that time, according to Code.org, a nonprofit with a list of who's who in the tech world on its advisory board including Twitter creator Jack Dorsey and Dropbox CEO Drew Houston.

And such jobs pay well. The median annual wage for a computer programmer, for instance, was \$71,380 in 2010, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Meanwhile, jobs for network and computer systems administrators are growing at double the national average, with a median annual salary of \$69,160.

Yet high schools and universities seem to be out of step with the job market. Nine out of 10 U.S. high schools don't offer com-

language requirements.

"Given how pervasive computers and the internet is now and how integral it is into our economy and how fascinated kids are with it, I want to make sure they know how to actually produce stuff using computers and not just simply consume stuff," Obama said during a Google+ Hangout.

Yale Oseroff's high school doesn't offer programming classes. The 17-year-old is spending his fourth year at an iD Tech Camp working through C++, a popular programming language used for systems and application software, for drivers to communicate between an operating system and devices like printers and to create some video games. □

# Market rises: less on Fed chatter, more on economy

CHRISTINA REXRODE

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Wall Street got back to focusing on the economy instead of the Federal Reserve on Tuesday, sending stocks higher. Four reports showed a brightening U.S. economy. Housing and manufacturing continued to improve, and consumer confidence hit its highest level in 5 1/2 years. The major U.S. stock indexes closed higher, with the Dow Jones industrial average shooting up 100.75 points, or 0.7 percent, to 14,760.31. The Standard & Poor's index rose 14.94 points, or 1 percent, to 1,588.03.

The triple-digit rise in the Dow continues a bout of market volatility caused by investors and traders who are worried about the Fed ending its economic stimulus. Last Wednesday, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said he expects the Fed to end its bond buying by the middle of 2014 if it feels the economy can manage without that stimulus.

The Dow then plunged by triple digits on three of the next four trading days, with investors worried that the market would struggle without the Fed propping it up. Some investors have concluded that the recent sell-offs were overblown. Quincy Crosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial,

guessed that shorter-term traders were the ones buying stocks Tuesday because they judged that parts of the market were "oversold."

Long-term investors are likely still sitting on the sidelines, waiting for further signs that markets are becoming less volatile, she said.

Among the biggest gainers were big dividend payers like phone and power companies. These are stocks that have been hit the hardest by the recent sell-off. The big economic reports Tuesday revealed: —Orders for durable goods rose 3.6 percent in May, matching April's gain. The gauge is important because U.S. manufacturing has generally struggled this year as demand for American exports slows in other parts of the world.

—Home prices rose 2.5 percent in April compared with March, the biggest month-over-month gain since 2000, according to the S&P/Case-Shiller index of 20 cities.

—The Conference Board's consumer confidence index jumped to 81.4 in June, the best reading since January 2008. The May reading, however, was revised down to 74.3 from the original estimate of 76.2.

—Sales of new homes rose in May to a seasonally adjusted annual rate

of 476,000, the Commerce Department said. That was the fastest pace since July 2008. Though sales of new homes remain below the 700,000 annual rate that most economists consider healthy, the pace has

thought the stock indexes had already reached their high points. The fact that the second quarter ends on Friday will also likely complicate the market's performance this week. Money manag-

cent from 2.54 percent late Monday. That's part of a longer-term trend: Investors have been selling bonds in anticipation of the Fed winding down its bond-buying program. The price of gold slipped



Construction is underway on the infrastructure of a multi-acre housing development in Zelienople, Pa. The Commerce Department reported positive data on new-home sales for May, on Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

jumped 29 percent from a year ago.

Ben Schwartz, chief market strategist at Lightspeed Financial in Chicago, described Tuesday as a day for the market to stabilize after the recent big plunges. But he predicted that the market could be volatile for the rest of the year, and others said they

ers may pull out because they need to book gains for clients. The stronger economic news for the U.S. led investors to sell U.S. government bonds, a sign that they're more comfortable putting money in stocks. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, a benchmark for many types of loans, rose to 2.6 per-

\$2 to \$1,275.10 an ounce, and the price of crude oil rose 14 cents to \$95.32 a barrel.

Among stocks making big moves:

—Walgreen, the nation's largest drugstore chain, slipped after reporting earnings and revenue that missed analysts' expectations. Walgreen's stock fell \$2.83, or nearly 6 percent, to \$45.22.

—Barnes & Noble plunged after reporting a loss that more than doubled in the latest quarter. The bookseller struggled to compete with online retailers and its Nook e-book continued to lose money. The stock fell \$3.21, or more than 17 percent, to \$15.61.

—Clothing chain Men's Wearhouse rose after saying it had fired executive chairman George Zimmer, the company's founder and star of its TV commercials, because he had advocated for "significant changes that would enable him to regain control," according to the company. The stock rose \$2, or nearly 6 percent, to \$37.13. □

## Sprint Nextel shareholders approve Softbank deal

OVERLAND PARK, Kansas

**(AP)** — Sprint Nextel Corp.'s shareholders on Tuesday approved SoftBank Corp. of Japan's acquisition of the bulk of the wireless carrier company.

Softbank had been competing with Dish Network Corp. since April to acquire Sprint.

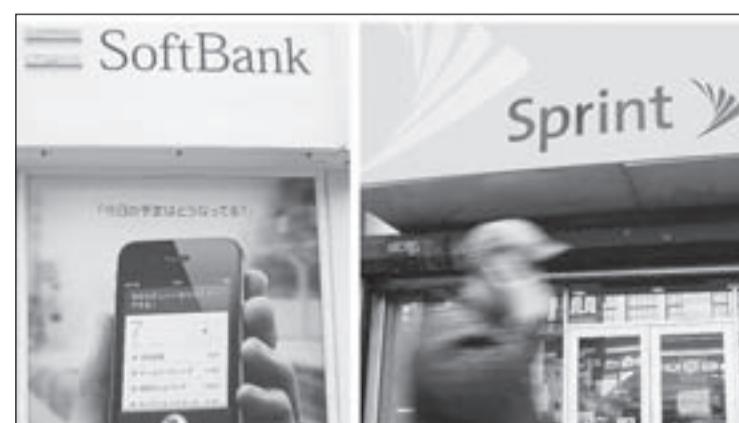
Sprint opted for Softbank's \$21.6 billion offer for 78 percent of the company, versus Dish's \$25.5 billion bid for all of Sprint.

CEO Dan Hesse said it was a historic day for the company and said the deal should enhance Sprint's long-term value and competitive position by creat-

ing a company with greater financial flexibility.

Softbank, based in Japan, is giving Sprint stockhold-

ers the choice of \$7.65 for each share they hold or one share of New Sprint common stock.



Combination photos show a SoftBank shop in Tokyo, and a man walking past a Sprint store in New York. Sprint Nextel Corp.'s shareholders on Tuesday approved SoftBank Corp. of Japan's acquisition of the bulk of the wireless carrier company.

Approximately 98 percent of the votes at Sprint's special shareholders meeting Tuesday were in favor of the deal, representing approximately 80 percent of Sprint's outstanding common stock.

The companies expect to complete the deal by early July.

Shares of Sprint, based in Overland Park, Kansas, increased 13 cents, or 2 percent, to \$7 in midday trading ahead of the broader market's gains.

Its stock value has increased more than 10 percent since April when the competing bids began. □

(AP Photo)

## Sorkin Column: Did Bernanke Tip Fed's Hand?

ANDREW SORKIN

© 2013 New York Times

Is Ben Bernanke being too chatty?

That's the question being put forward by some economists and others about Bernanke, the normally restrained Federal Reserve chairman, after his comments in May and last week about the economy and the central bank's plans for eventually backing off its stimulus measures.

Last week, his comments that the economic recovery was surpassing forecasts sent the market into a tailspin because Wall Street was worried that the Fed would start easing its bond-buying program and raise interest rates sooner than many had anticipated. That, in turn, could slow the economy, some worry. Since then, the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index has fallen nearly 5 percent.

Bernanke, hardly one to be described as verbose, said far more during his news conference on Wednesday than he usually does - and he went further about the Fed's policy plans than the committee itself had said earlier in its official statement. He went on to say that "a more prudent approach would be to wait for more tangible signs that the economy was strengthening and that inflation was on a path to return toward target before making such an announcement."

It wasn't that long ago that any Fed chairman hardly said a word. Until 1994, the Fed did not even regularly issue a statement disclosing a change in policy after its monthly meeting. Alan Greenspan made an art out of talking in circles so that investors couldn't divine his intentions.

Janet Yellen, the Fed's vice chairwoman and a possible successor to Bernanke, explained in a recent speech that for most of the last century, the Fed's communications policy was modeled on Montagu Norman, governor of the Bank of England, whose motto, she said, was, "Never explain, never excuse."

Ever since the financial crisis, with calls for more trans-

parency, Bernanke has taken a different tack, holding news conferences and providing specific details and timelines for the Fed's policies.

In some instances, it has worked magnificently. By laying out a timetable for the Fed's stimulus back in January 2012 - in which he explained the Fed's inflation and unemployment targets - he found a way to create a relative calm in the markets.

Questions about the communications strategy, however, were raised about whether he was oversharing. Would it become, as they might say on Twitter, TMI? (too much information.) The worry back then was that he would box himself into a specific timeline and that he would have a tricky time exiting his stimulus strategy.

Even before Bernanke spoke last week, he was being blamed for the recent market volatility. "The purpose of central-bank transparency was to give markets clarity and reduce volatility," Ed Yardeni, president and chief investment strategist at Yardeni Research, told Bloomberg News two days before the Bernanke news conference. Yellen, in her speech, which was given to the Society of American Business Editors and Writers, said that the Fed's move to be more transparent wasn't just for the sake of transparency. She said the Fed's utterances had become an important tool.

The first big communications moment for the Fed, she said, was in 2003 when the central bank was running out of options to spur growth because it had already cut the federal funds rate. So it decided to tell the market that it planned to keep rates low for a considerable period.

"The committee was using communication - mere words - as its primary monetary policy tool. Until then, it was probably common to think of communication about future policy as something that supplemented the setting of the federal funds rate. □

## Walgreen: 3Q profit jumps but misses estimates

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

Walgreen Co.'s fiscal third quarter earnings jumped 16 percent, but its shares plunged Tuesday as investors fretted over sluggish sales outside the drugstore chain's pharmacies and other troubling trends.

The Deerfield, Illinois, company missed Wall Street forecasts, and its earnings grew largely because of the comparison with last year's quarter, when a business split had hurt its performance. Several analysts said they were surprised by a weaker than expected expansion in this year's quarter of Walgreen's gross margin, which is a basic measure of profitability. That could indicate that the nation's largest drugstore operator is losing faster than expected a key boost it had been receiving from generic

drugs, said Edward Jones analyst Judson Clark.

An influx of generic medications has helped drugstore bottom lines for several quarters now because they come with a wider margin between the cost for the pharmacy to purchase the drugs and the reimbursement it receives. The generic wave was driven by the expiration of patents protecting top-sellers like the cholesterol fighter Lipitor. But that benefit is expected to wane because there are fewer significant patent expirations waiting to refuel it. That decreasing generic benefit plus a promotional push to boost sales in store front ends, or the area outside the pharmacy, could hurt Walgreen's profitability in future quarters, said Credit Suisse analyst Edward J. Kelly, who called the results released Tues-

day "fairly disappointing."

"This quarter is not a great signal for the near-term," he wrote in an email.

Walgreen shares sank 6.2 percent, or \$2.99, to \$45.06 Tuesday afternoon, while broader trading indexes climbed slightly. But the stock price had already advanced 30 percent so far this year before Tuesday, and Clark said that gain is part of the reason shares fell so much after the company released earnings. "We think this is still a good business and an appropriate price," he said. Overall, Walgreen earned \$624 million, or 65 cents per share, in the quarter that ended in May. That's up from \$537 million, or 62 cents per share, a year ago, when the company had fewer shares outstanding.

Revenue rose about 3 percent to \$18.31 billion. □



This Friday, June 21, 2013 photo shows the script "Walgreens" over windows at the store in Wexford, Pa. Walgreen Co. reported quarterly financial results, Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

(AP Photo/Keith Srakocic)

## Oil higher on goods data; pump price down

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of oil showed a small gain Tuesday, as positive U.S. economic news provided some support while traders wait for the latest supply reports.

In New York benchmark oil for August delivery rose 14 cents to end at \$95.32 a barrel.

A trio of economic reports boosted both oil and stocks. The government said U.S. businesses ordered more long-lasting manufactured goods, including a surge in com-

mercial aircraft orders. Readings on home prices and consumer confidence were also positive.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up more than 100 points in afternoon trading. Oil trading is often influenced by stock market trends which can reflect the state of confidence in the economic outlook.

Traders are awaiting the weekly report on oil and gasoline supplies due out Wednesday from the Energy Department. The nation's supply of crude oil is near a record level, while

gasoline supplies remain high because of tepid demand.

Drivers are seeing some relief in gas prices. The price of a gallon fell a penny to an average of \$3.55. It's dropped 8 cents in two weeks.

Brent crude, used to set prices for oil used by many U.S. refineries to make gasoline, rose 10 cents to end at \$101.26 a barrel.

In other energy futures trading on the Nymex, natural gas lost 9 cents to finish at \$3.65 per 1,000 cubic feet (28.32 cubic meters). □



## Dr. Ramey Column: Can parents learn from the Navy SEALs?

Dr. Gregory Ramey  
© 2013 Cox Newspapers

DAYTON, Ohio -- Mark Owen's book "No Easy Day" is more than a story about the Navy SEAL operation that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden. It is a testimony to the passion of a group of soldiers who placed country above all, including family, friends, and their own personal safety. I was most intrigued by the training that prepared these warriors for their life-threatening missions. "One of the key lessons learned early on in the SEAL's career was the ability to be comfortable being uncomfortable," remarked Owen, who was referring not only to the physical challenges but also to the mental pressures of their training.

The importance of getting accustomed to being uncomfortable goes against most every child rearing precept, with parents going to extraordinary lengths to raise children in a stress-free environment. Can the Navy SEALs teach us anything about effective ways to raise our children?

1. Kids learn a lot from experiencing stressful situations. When the SEALs were pushed to their physical and emotional limits, they realized that their potential exceeded their perceived boundaries. The fact that they were uncomfortable was never an excuse for giving up.

Parents seem preoccupied with making certain their children are never placed in a situation of physical or emotional discomfort. When a difficult situation arises, parents quickly get involved to make things better.

Try this. Let your fourth grader speak directly with her teacher about problems in school. Let your junior high student navigate the drama of peer interactions without you calling other parents. Coach your kids to push their limits and accept stress as a natural and sometimes healthy part of life.

2. Success comes from working hard, not wishing

for what you want. Navy SEAL training is all about hard work and sacrifice. Many youngsters are more concerned with what they want rather than the self-control and the difficult work it takes to accomplish their goals. Parents can be too nice, encouraging their kids' dreams rather than confronting them with the reality that wishing and wanting, after you leave the cocoon of your parent's home, accomplish nothing. 3. Failure is a learning experience. Navy SEALs do an extraordinary

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# The Energy Fair: Solar power to the people

**MICHAEL TORTORELLO**

© 2013 New York Times

Recently, some 20,000 people gathered at a vast field in Custer, Wis., to talk about wind power. No joke. Get this: Thousands of souls have been coming here every summer for 23 years to talk - really talk - about wind power.

This was the Energy Fair, a three-day convergence of homesteaders, hippies, ecotopians and more than a few end-times enthusiasts, staged by the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. Beyond the lecture titled "MacGyver Windmills" (that is, devices fabricated from junk), a \$15 day pass gets you admission to 200 other workshops. Would you like to

learn about home algae cultivation and humane rabbit husbandry (for meat and wool)? How about advanced photovoltaic systems and do-it-yourself biodiesel?

The overarching theme is what marketers call "sustainable living," and these days it hardly qualifies as a kooky pursuit. Many of the fair's longtime commercial exhibitors, manufacturers of solar-energy technology or rainwater harvesting kits, could now find a home at the Home Depot.

This year's volunteers appear in the profiles below, along with pitches for the big idea they presented. Jason Edens explains how a simple solar-heating kit can free low-income folks

from what he calls "fuel poverty." Dominic Crea talks about building a big contemporary house that runs on just half a kilowatt-hour of solar power.

## CHEAP SOLAR ENERGY

Jason Edens started experimenting with a solar-powered furnace because he didn't have any money and he didn't want to be cold. He is happy to explain how "solar thermal" technology works. It's what he does as the founding director of the Rural Renewable Energy Alliance, which manufactures and installs solar energy systems across nine states.

First, here is what a solar-powered furnace isn't: the familiar shiny photovoltaic

panels that rest on the roof, generating electricity year-round. Instead, "essentially it is an aluminum-and-glass box," said Edens, 41. Inside one of these solar thermal systems "is what I like to call a sun sponge or the absorber, the part that inverts the irradiance of the sun into useful heat."

Hook the panel to a thermostat, a blower and some ductwork, and you can supply about a third of a home's total space-heating needs.

Still can't picture it? Try this: A solar-powered furnace is a slab of coated metal and a fan. The technology, which was patented way back in 1881, Edens said, operates when the sun shines.

But let's get back to that cold winter a dozen years ago in Pine River, Minn. Edens, then a graduate student in environmental policy, was so poor that he ran out of propane to heat his 1,250-square-foot home.

Like some 7 million American households, he said, he received a break from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, a \$3 billion-a-year (and shrinking) federal block grant. (This year, program data suggest, New York will shovel almost \$340 million into helping households pay heating and air-conditioning bills. While "fuel poverty" is persistent and pernicious, Edens said, "instead of applying a solution, we're just hemorrhaging money.") That was when he heard about a home changing hands in St. Paul that had a solar thermal system, he said - that is, a solar-powered furnace.

"They were discarding it, but it was fully functional," he said. "I drove down to St. Paul in a pickup truck and literally went dumpster diving. I installed it on my house. We saved so much money, I had a moment where I said, if we can save this money in Minnesota. . . ."

And now the fine print. An installed solar furnace system typically costs \$5,000

to \$7,000, before any renewable energy tax breaks and rebates. (These incentives often add up to about 50 percent of the total costs.) Still, with natural gas prices at frack-tastic lows, a solar-powered furnace remains a long game.

The panels, which measure 24 to 40 square feet, lie vertically against the south side of the house to capture rays from the low winter sun. (The system typically doesn't need to run at all in the summer; remember, it's not making electricity.) This positioning means that trees and other buildings in a city landscape will easily shade them out.

Taking these two factors together, Edens has devoted most of his organization's attention to open, rural areas, where many homes rely for heat on pricey propane and heating oil. (The average Northeastern household that heats with these delivered fuels spent more than \$2,300 last winter, according to Energy Department data. That new solar thermal system doesn't seem quite so dear by comparison.)

## LOW-WATTAGE LIVING

Here's a simple truth about electrical power: If you don't have it, you won't use it. Most Americans never grapple with this. Queue up "Revolution" on the 60-inch plasma, punch the remote, and cheap, abundant power flows out of the wall.

And then there's Dominic Crea, a 58-year-old part-time physics teacher who has begun to explore a practice he calls "milliwatt living" in the 3,000-square-foot "renewable energy home" he is finishing in Leonard, Mich.

"A typical home draws about 30 kilowatt-hours a day," Crea said, whereas a typical off-the-grid house may try to get by on 4 to 10 kilowatt-hours. Yet even for people devoted to sustainable living, he added, "the idea is always to find larger or greater amounts of power to sustain the kinds of living that people are accustomed to." □



An undated handout photo of Dominic Crea who explores "milliwatt living" in his 3,000-square-foot "renewable energy home." The Midwest Renewable Energy Association fair offers ideas for sustainable living, like how to mix your own house paint.

(Dominic Crea via The New York Times)

## Oil industry loses battle over ethanol

**Jennifer A. Dlouhy**

© 2012 Houston Chronicle

**WASHINGTON** - The Supreme Court dealt a big blow to the oil industry this week, deciding not to hear a legal challenge of the federal government's decision to approve the sale of fuel containing 15 percent ethanol.

The decision not to hear the case - which the high court issued without comment - was a defeat for the American Petroleum Institute and several other groups that have been fighting the Environmen-

tal Protection Agency's 2010 approval of the E15 blend. Although the agency green-lighted the sale of E15 for cars and trucks made since 2007, the higher-ethanol blend is not authorized for older vehicles. After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled in January that the American Petroleum Institute and more than a dozen other groups did not have standing to challenge the EPA's limited approval of E15, the institute and other parties appealed to the Supreme

Court. Harry Ng, the institute's vice president and general counsel, called the high court's move "a big loss for consumers, for safety and for our environment." The oil industry argues that E15 has not been proved safe, that "misfueling" could cause filling station owners to face liability when the fuel is inadvertently pumped into older cars and that the market for the mix is limited, especially since some automakers have warned drivers that using the fuel will void warranties. □

## People Briefs

**Chris Brown charged with hit-and-run**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The Los Angeles city attorney's office has charged singer Chris Brown with misdemeanor hit-and-run and driving without a valid license.

City attorney spokesman Frank Mateljan says the charges filed Tuesday involve a minor accident on May 21 in the San Fernando Valley.

If convicted, Brown would face up to one year in jail. Arraignment is scheduled for July 15 at the Van Nuys courthouse, but an attorney can appear on Brown's behalf.

Mateljan says the county district attorney's office will be notified of the charges and it will be up to that office and the courts to determine if the case will have any effect on Brown's felony probation in the 2009 beating of singer Rihanna.

A call seeking comment from a Brown representative was not immediately returned Tuesday. □

**Broadway will dim marquees for Gandolfini**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Broadway theaters will dim their marquee lights Wednesday night in memory of James Gandolfini, "The Sopranos" star who earned a Tony Award nomination in 2009.

The Broadway League said Tuesday the lights will be dimmed for one minute at exactly 8 p.m. EDT (0000 GMT). The 51-year-old actor died Wednesday in Rome and a funeral will be held Thursday at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City.

Gandolfini received a Tony nomination for his role in the award-winning "God of Carnage." He also appeared on Broadway in "On the Waterfront" in 1995 and "A Streetcar Named Desire" in 1992. □

**Halle Berry testifies for anti-paparazzi bill**

**Associated Press**

**SACRAMENTO, California (AP)** — Academy Award-winner Halle Berry testified Tuesday for a California bill that would limit the ability of paparazzi to photo-

graph the children of celebrities and public figures. "My daughter doesn't want to go to school because she knows 'the men' are watching for her," the actor said. "They jump out

of the bushes and from behind cars and who knows where else, besieging these children just to get a photo."

The bill would change the definition of harassment to

include photographing or recording a child without the permission of a legal guardian by following the child or guardian's activities or by lying in wait.

It also increases the penalties for people convicted of such behavior. Anyone convicted of a first offense could spend between 10 days and a year in jail.

But journalism advocates fear the bill will interfere with reporters and photographers gathering news. In an age when everyone with a cellphone has a camera, some say it also potentially puts private citizens at risk of prosecution.

"It sweeps legitimate news-gathering activities into the new definition of harassment and exposes everyday activities that journalists do to criminal and civil liability," said Jim Ewert of the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

The bill is supported by many Southern California law enforcement organizations. □



Actress Halle Berry testifies before the Assembly Committee on Public Safety for a bill that would limit the ability of paparazzi to photograph children of celebrities and public figures, on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif.

(AP Photo/Steve Yeater)

**Diddy attempts to bring music back to TV**

**MESFIN FEKADU**

**AP Music Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Diddy had been working on developing a TV network for years. When he was almost shut out of performing on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" around the release of a 2010 album, the rapper-producer realized he needed to launch the network sooner rather than later.

"I had to beg to be on ... 'Dancing With the Stars' and it was something to me that wasn't right about that," he said.

Diddy believed there weren't enough outlets for musicians on TV — and that moment drove home the point.

He's launching Revolt TV in the fall.

"There's ESPN for sports, CNN, Fox News for news and the AP. There should be a brand for music, and now we have that brand that's going to focus on

music and not reality shows," he said. "There's been a gaping hole once some of the other channels stopped having focus on music and focused more on reality, and it left a gaping hole for artists and fans of not having a place to go."

The 43-year-old entrepreneur announced last week that Revolt TV had reached a deal to have his network distributed on Time Warner Cable. Comcast Corp. announced a deal with Diddy's network last year.

Sean "Diddy" Combs has produced shows like "Making the Band" for MTV, and he's hoping to bring the flavor of what's buzzing on the Internet — viral videos, behind-the-scene music moments and raw interviews — to TV sets. He's "embracing" what's happening online and plans to tap into that audience.

"We want to have partnerships with YouTube and



Sean "Diddy" Combs at the National Action Network's 3rd Annual Triumph Awards in New York. Diddy announced last week that he reached a deal with Time Warner Cable to launch a music network called Revolt TV this fall.

(Photo by Charles Sykes/AP)

we want to have partnerships with Facebook and Instagram and Spotify and Beats (by Dre)," he said. "We're all in this together." MTV, which has shifted to reality TV, occasionally plays music videos, and there are channels like MTV

Hits and VH1 Soul that show videos throughout the day. Diddy said Revolt TV will proudly play music videos, but "this is not an MTV 2 (or) 3.0." "I wanted my MTV and so when I missed it, I didn't want to complain about it, □

# Is Paula Deen toast? If so, liberally apply butter

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Will Paula Deen go the way of Michael Richards or Charlie Sheen?

One unleashed a bigoted tirade and is no longer a lovable, easily employable clown. The other carved a brand out of crazy — reported hotel N-word rant and all — but is back on TV earning millions.

Her Food Network shows gone, her endorsements crumbling, is Paula Deen — in a word — toast?

A week after Deen's admission of using racial slurs in the past surfaced in a discrimination lawsuit, pop culture watchers, experts in managing public relations nightmares and civil rights stalwarts who have tried to help other celebrities in her position see a long, bumpy road ahead.

They also see a week full of missteps and believe the queen of comfort food reacted too slowly to her latest controversy at a time when hours count. They say it could take years, if she can make it back at all to the earning power she has enjoyed.

"Paula Deen has, I would say, taken an irreparable hit because she had this appearance of being more or less a nice older woman who cooks food that's bad for you. That in her own way sort of made her lovable," said Janice Min, editorial director of The Hollywood Reporter in Los Angeles.

"But this presents a whole

other picture of, 'Wow, maybe she's just an old racist white southern woman.' That image is hard to shake off for a large chunk of people," Min added.

racially charged cases. His current clients include the family of black teen Trayvon Martin, whose shooter, George Zimmerman, is on trial for second-degree

said. "One of the first rules of crisis is to apologize thoroughly and completely and immediately. She didn't follow Crisis 101."

Deen, 66, and her brother, Bubba Hiers, are being sued by Lisa Jackson, a former manager of the restaurant they own in Savannah, Ga. Jackson accused them last year of sexual harassment and a hostile environment of innuendo and racial slurs.

According to a transcript of Deen's deposition, an attorney for Jackson asked Deen if she has ever used the N-word.

"Yes, of course," Deen replied, though she added: "It's been a very long time." And she said she doesn't use the word anymore.

She bailed on the "Today" show on Friday, instead posting a series of criticized YouTube apologies. She was dropped by the Food Network the same day. An apology, at this point, isn't enough, said Dara Busch, executive vice president and managing director of Rubenstein Associates in New York, a top PR company.

"It will take years for her to fix how she will be viewed by the African American community. She has to find ways to prove that she's not that way any longer," said Busch.

Howard Rubenstein, who founded Busch's firm and is known as a damage control guru, helped facilitate Richards' apologies to the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jes-

se Jackson after the comedian was caught on video using the N-word and making a lynching reference on stage against a black heckler. Rubenstein declined an interview.

Kopp said Richards apologized over and over on TV and elsewhere, yet his career has never been the same.

"You know, this sort of thing hasn't been a career-ender for that many people," Min said. "But she's reliant on television, pretty much mainstream wholesome television, to prop up her brand. If you're not on the Food Network, you just don't have too many other places to go."

Smithfield Foods, where she had her own line of hams, also dropped her this week as a pitchwoman.

Min, Kopp, Busch and others say Deen has been her own worst PR enemy in the fallout from her race-fueled deposition, which also included her seeing the "beauty" in a Southern-style wedding she once considered for her brother, complete with formally dressed black waiters.

That and her oddly spliced video apology, later swapped out for an unedited one after she bailed on Matt Lauer and the "Today" show, "made her seem shifty, sort of erratic and strange," Min said. "She had already dug herself in by waiting three or four days before talking at all and what she finally did say dug her in a little deeper." □



**Celebrity chef Paula Deen poses for a portrait in New York. A week after Deen's admission of using racial slurs in the past surfaced in a discrimination lawsuit, pop culture watchers, experts in managing public relations nightmares and civil rights stalwarts who have tried to help other celebrities in her position see a long, bumpy road ahead.**

(AP Photo/Carlo Allegri)

So far, what could go wrong pretty much has, said Larry Kopp, president of The TASC Group, a communications firm for sports figures and celebrities with experience in high-profile,

murder. In celebrity terms, where do Deen's troubles land her in the crowded hierarchy of misbehavior?

"I think it's right up there with Mel Gibson," Kopp

## Grisham's 'A Time To Kill' heading to Broadway

**NEW YORK (AP)** — John Grisham's first novel, which was made into a star-filled film, is now heading to a Broadway stage.

Producers said Tuesday that an adaptation of "A Time to Kill" will begin performances at the John Golden Theatre this fall. An earlier version was staged at Washington's Arena Stage in 2011.

"A Time to Kill" was Grisham's first novel and it was made into a 1996 movie starring Matthew McCon-

aughey, Sandra Bullock and Samuel L. Jackson. It's a courtroom thriller set in Mississippi that centers on a white lawyer defending a black father who has killed the man who raped his young daughter.

The task of boiling down the book's 600-plus pages to two acts was handed to Tony Award-winning playwright Rupert Holmes, who wrote "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" and "Curtains." No cast was announced. In Washington, Broadway

actor Sebastian Arcelus, who has appeared mostly in musicals, played the defense attorney that McConaughey portrayed in the film. Ethan McSweeney, who directed "Gore Vidal's The Best Man," will once again direct, as he did at Arena Stage.

This is the first theatrical adaptation of a Grisham novel after a series of hit movies made from his legal thrillers, including "The Pelican Brief," "The Firm" and others. □



**Author John Grisham speaks during the opening of the premier of the stage adaptation of "A Time To Kill" at Arena Stage theater in Washington. The stage adaptation of the novel is now heading to Broadway.**

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

## The Great Disconnect



ROSS DOUTHAT

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This January, as President Barack Obama began his second term, the Pew Research Center asked Americans to list their policy priorities for 2013. Huge majorities cited jobs and the economy; sizable majorities cited health care costs and entitlement reform; more modest majorities cited fighting poverty and reforming the tax code. Down at the bottom of the list, with less than 40 percent support in each case, were gun control, immigration and climate change.

Yet six months later, the public's non-priorities look like the entirety of the White House's second-term agenda. The president's failed push for background checks has given way to an ongoing push for immigration reform, and the administration is reportedly planning a sweeping regulatory push on carbon emissions this summer. Meanwhile, nobody expects much action on the issues that Americans actually wanted Washington to focus on: Tax and entitlement reform have been back-burnered, and the plight of the unemployed seems to have dropped off the D.C. radar screen entirely.

In part, this disconnect between country and capital reflects the limits gridlock puts on governance. The ideological divides in Washington - between right and left, and between different factions within the House Republican caucus - make action on first-rank issues unusually difficult, so it's natural that politicians would look for compromises on lower-priority debates instead.

That's the generous way of looking at it, at least. The more cynical take is that D.C. gridlock has given the political class an excuse to ignore the country's most pressing problem - a lack of decent jobs at decent wages, with a deeper social crisis at work underneath - and pursue its own pet causes instead.

After all, gun control, immigration reform and climate change aren't just random targets of opportunity. They're pillars of Acela Corridor ideology, core elements of Bloombergism, places where Obama-era liberalism overlaps with the views of Davos-goers and the Wall Street 1 percent. If you move in those circles, the political circumstances don't necessarily matter; these ideas always look like uncontroversial common sense.

Step outside those circles, though, and the timing of their elevation looks at best peculiar,

at worst perverse. The president decided to make gun control legislation a major second-term priority ... with firearm homicides at a 30-year low. Congress is pursuing a sharp increase in low-skilled immigration ... when the foreign-born share of the American population is already headed for historical highs. The administration is drawing up major new carbon regulations ... when actual existing global warming has been well below projections for 15 years and counting.

What's more, on the issues that Americans actually prioritize - jobs, wages, the economy - it's likely that both immigration reform and whatever the White House decides to do on greenhouse gases will make the short-term picture somewhat worse. The Congressional Budget Office's recent analysis of the immigration bill errs on the side of optimism, but it still projects that the legislation would leave unemployment "slightly elevated" through 2020, and average wages modestly reduced. Given that similar estimates greeted the Waxman-Markey cap-and-trade bill in 2009, it's reasonable to assume that carbon regulations would slightly raise the unemployment rate as well.

These costs might be more acceptable in a world where Washington was also readying, say, payroll tax relief for working-class families, or measures to help the long-term uninsured. But since those ideas currently lack constituencies in the capital, we're left with the peculiar spectacle of a political class responding to a period of destructive long-term unemployment with an agenda that threatens to help extend that crisis toward 2020 and beyond.

This disconnect is the most serious threat to the current liberal ascendancy. Obama has a good chance to be remembered as "the liberal Reagan," but the Reagan recovery was far better for most Americans than this one has been, and right now the president's mediocre job approval numbers contrast sharply with the highs of Reagan's second term.

In this sense, for all the (justifiable) talk about conservatism's dysfunction, Republicans have more freedom of movement today than Democrats did after their 1984 defeat. As Yuval Levin wrote in *The Weekly Standard* in April, there has been no "morning in America"-style indication for this administration; instead, "both parties give the impression of having outlived their eras," and "the moment feels more like the late 1970s than the late 1980s." The country clearly prefers Obama to the available alternatives, but it might prefer another alternative still.

So far, though, Republicans have mostly used liberalism's relative weakness as an excuse for not moving much at all, and sticking with an agenda that's even more disconnected from the anxieties of the average voter than the White House's second-term priorities. □



## The Powerful NCAA Under Fire



JOE NOCERA

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In 1951, a man named Walter Byers became the first-ever executive director of the NCAA, an organization that at the time was both toothless and penniless. That year, the NCAA had been forced to abandon its short-lived "Sanity Code," an effort to rein in excesses in college athletics. Byers, who had been an assistant at the Big Ten Conference, was given a room at the Big Ten for his office. He had one employee: his assistant. He was 29 years old. Over the next 37 years, Byers built the NCAA into the powerful, wealthy monolith it is today. He is the man who coined the phrase "student-athlete" to deflect attempts to force universities to pay workers' compensation.

He fought efforts to tax college sports. (Today, buying a "seat license" is viewed by the IRS as a tax-deductible donation.) He negotiated the first million-dollar television contract and imposed the first "death penalty" - a one-year ban on Kentucky's basketball team in 1952 after several players were involved in a point-shaving scandal.

But toward the end of his tenure, Byers turned against his creation. For most of his career, he later wrote, "I supported any rule that sought to keep college athletics

more a student activity than a profession." By the 1980s, though, he could see that the battle was lost: College sports was becoming big business.

So he began to say out loud that the rules needed to change: that, at a minimum, players should be allowed to endorse products and get additional financial assistance. The first person to compare big-time college sports to the plantation was not Taylor Branch in his groundbreaking 2011 article in *The Atlantic*. It was Walter Byers. The NCAA responded by ushering Byers out the door, leading him to conclude that the only two forces that could impose real change on the organization were: congressional action or litigation.

On Thursday in San Francisco, Michael Hausfeld, a plaintiff's attorney from Washington, stood before a federal judge and argued that the NCAA violates the nation's antitrust laws. Hausfeld is the lawyer who has brought the O'Bannon case, so named for the lead plaintiff, Ed O'Bannon, a former UCLA basketball star who sued the NCAA for licensing his likeness to the video game maker EA Sports without compensating him. Dozens of other former college athletes have since joined the suit.

If they get certified as a class - and that is what Thursday's arguments were about - there would be potentially tens of thousands of plaintiffs. (Disclosure: William Isaacson, a lawyer at Boies, Schiller & Flexner, is aiding Hausfeld. My wife, who is the firm's director of communications, has no role in the case.)

Not since the 1980s has the NCAA faced such a legal threat to - let's call it what it is - its "business model." That is the model that generates billions of dollars, which is divvied up among coaches, athletic directors, conference commissioners - everyone except the "amateurs" who play the games. This has become increasingly un-

tenable. Over the last few years, the NCAA has found itself in turmoil, with many of the big-time schools questioning whether they even need it anymore. It's not that they are yearning to pay the players, but the hypocrisy of the current situation has become so flagrant that the center is no longer holding. And the NCAA's efforts to defend its amateurism model have taken on a feeling of desperation.

For instance, the NCAA's legal arguments in the O'Bannon case are almost laughably weak. It argues that if the players were paid, then college sports would lose its appeal. Says who? It claims that college athletes must continue to be amateurs because, well, that's the way it's always been. It even argues that if O'Bannon wins, schools like Michigan, with its 110,000-seat football stadium, would downgrade its athletic status to that of, say, Amherst. I'm told that there were times Thursday when people were openly chortling at some of the NCAA's oral arguments.

The last time the NCAA faced a major class-action lawsuit, it simply paid a large sum of money to make it go away. That's classic NCAA behavior. Both Hausfeld and O'Bannon insist that won't happen this time: O'Bannon was quoted in *The Times* on Wednesday saying that he wasn't in it for the money: "I want systemic change. That's what we're here for."

In the next month, the judge will make a decision about whether the lawsuit should go forward. There are no guarantees, of course, but if O'Bannon wins, and players have to be compensated for use of their likeness, it will be the first small step toward giving the players a share, at long last, of the riches their work produces. It won't, however, be the last such step. Whether through O'Bannon or some other means, the day is coming when the players will be paid. The only question is when. □

# What did Narcissus say to Instagram? Selfie time!

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In these hyper-connected, over-shared times dwell two kinds of people: those pre-occupied with taking and uploading photos of themselves and those who have never heard of the selfie. The raunchy, goofy, poignant, sexy or drunken self-portrait has been a common sight since phone camera met social media. Now, nearly a decade since the arm-extended or in-the-mirror photos became a mainstay of

nese astronaut Aki Hoshida earned a spot in the Selfie Hall of Fame with a striking, other-worldly shot, arms extended as reflected in his helmet outside the International Space Station last year.

"It just comes so naturally after a point," said Elizabeth Zamora, a 24-year-old marketing account coordinator in Dallas who has taken hundreds of selfies since she got her first iPhone two years ago, with the front-facing camera that has become the selfie gold standard.

The practice of freezing and sharing our thinnest slices of life has become so popular that the granddaddy of dictionaries, the Oxford, is monitoring the term selfie as a possible addition. Time magazine included the selfie in its Top 10 buzzwords of 2012 (at No. 9) and New York magazine's The Cut blog declared in April: "Ugly Is the New Pretty: How Unattractive Selfies Took Over the Internet."

On Instagram alone, there's #selfiesunday, along with related tags where millions

crying out: Look at me!" But Pamela Rutledge doesn't see it that way. The director of the non-profit Media Psychology Research Center, which explores how humans interact with technology, sees the selfie as democratizing the once-snooty practice of self-portraiture, a tradition that long predates Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and Flickr.

She sees some key differences between selfies and self-portraits of yore. Unlike painted portraiture, selfies are easily deletable. And

mous and in control of our own images and storylines. As for the young, the more authority figures — parents, teachers — dislike them and "declare them a sign of a self-obsessed, narcissistic generation, the more desirable they become," she said.

The word selfie in itself carries multiple connotations, Rutledge observes. "The 'ie' at the end makes selfie a diminutive, implying some affection and familiarity." From a semantic's perspective, the selfie is a "little' self" — a small, friendly bit of the self, she said.

There's a sense of immediacy and temporariness. "Granted, little is really temporary on the Internet, but it is more than that by definition. Transient, soon to be upstaged by the next one," Rutledge said.

Self-portraits tagged as 'selfie' first surfaced on Flickr, a photo-sharing site, and on MySpace in 2004, Rutledge said. The earliest reference in UrbanDictionary was to "selfy" in 2005. In historical terms, elites in Ancient Egypt were fond of self-portraits, Rutledge said. And then there was the mirror, invented in the 15th century and allowing artists like the prolific Durer in Germany to have at it in more meaningful detail.

While the self-involved Narcissus stared at his reflection in a pond in Greek mythology, it was the mirror that "really was the first piece of technology where an artist could see his own image long enough to paint it, other than just painting self-impressions," Rutledge said. Fast forward to the 1860s and the advent of cameras, launching a new round of selfies, though they took considerable skill and expense.

Leap with us once again to 2010 and the launch of Instagram, and on to 2012, when 86 percent of the U.S. population had a cell phone, bringing on the cheaper selfie as social media and mobile Internet access spread. "What's most interesting to me is how we're trying to grapple with what it means," Rutledge said. □



This combo image of six undated images shows self-portraits taken by Nikki Anderson, 19, of Massachusetts. The practice of freezing and sharing our thinnest slices of life in "selfies" has become so popular that the granddaddy of dictionaries, the Oxford, is monitoring the term as a possible addition.

(AP Photo/Nikki Anderson)

MySpace — duck face or otherwise — selfies are a pastime across generations and cultures.

Justin Bieber puts up plenty with his shirt off and Rihanna poses for sultry snaps, but a beaming Hillary Clinton recently took a turn with daughter Chelsea, who tweeted their happy first attempt with the hashtag #ProudDaughter.

Two other famous daughters, Sasha and Malia Obama, selfied at dad's second inauguration, pulling faces in front of a smartphone. And Japa-

"You just take it and you don't even realize it and then you're sharing it with all your friends," she said. "I try not to go crazy."

If we're not taking them, we're certainly looking, regardless of whether we know what they're called. We're lurking on the selfies of our teens, enjoying the hijinx of co-workers and friends and mooning over celebrities, who have fast learned the marketing value — and scandalous dangers — of capturing their more intimate, unpolished selves.

of selfies land daily. More than 23 million photos have been uploaded to the app with the tag #selfie and about 70 million photos clog Instagram's #me.

What are we to make of all this navel-gazing (sometimes literally)? Are selfies, by definition, culturally dangerous? Offensive? An indicator of moral decline? Beverly Hills, Calif., psychiatrist Carole Lieberman sees narcissism with a capital N. "The rise of the selfie is a perfect metaphor for our increasingly narcissistic culture. We're desperately

"bad or funny is good in a way that wasn't the case when people had to pay for film to be developed," or for a professional painter, she said.

"Albrecht Durer's self-portraiture is these incredible self-reflections and explorations of technique, and then when Rihanna snaps her picture it's just self-aggrandizement, or it's promotion, so you have a fairly interesting double standard based upon who's taking the self-portrait," said Rutledge, in Boston.

In selfies, we can be fa-